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WALSALL
COUNTY BOROUGH
HEALTH REPORT
1954



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THOMAS ROSS, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health and
Principal School Medical Officer



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CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT

[illegible]

SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICE

[illegible]

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COUNTY BOROUGH OF WALSALL

HEALTH COMMITTEE

From May, 1954 to May, 1955

CHAIRMAN:

Councillor D. M. Middleton.

VICE-CHAIRMAN:

Councillor H. S. Gwinnutt.

Alderman M. J. Kavanagh, M.C.	Councillor E. M. Flint
Councillor E. A. Brockhurst, J.P.	Councillor L. Harrington
Councillor D. Cartwright	Councillor H. Richards
Councillor D. H. Cook	Councillor B. C. Stanley
Councillor R. Davies	Councillor A. M. M. Taylor

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN:

Alderman T. P. Riley, J.P.

VICE-CHAIRMAN:

Alderman W. R. Wheway, J.P.

Alderman F. W. Evans, J.P.	Councillor A. M. M. Taylor
Alderman A. McShane	Councillor S. Wright
Councillor E. A. Brockhurst, J.P.	Mr. H. G. Gibbs
Councillor A. W. Cotterell,	Rev. Preb. A. T. Jenkins
M.B.E., J.P.	Rev. W. Sheeran
Councillor E. M. Flint	Rev. W. Eric Hodges
Councillor H. Giles	Mr. W. A. Burn
Councillor F. W. Harbidge	Mr. E. Noon
Councillor L. Harrington	Mr. J. Robson
Councillor F. F. Harrison	Mr. C. Tomkinson
Councillor H. Busill Jones, J.P.	

STAFF

(at 31st December, 1954)

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH AND PRINCIPAL SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICER	Thomas Ross, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
DEPUTY MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH	H. C. Milligan, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
SENIOR MEDICAL OFFICER FOR MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE	I. M. Brown, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., M.M.S.A., D.R.C.O.G., D.C.H.
ASSISTANT MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH	M. B. Dillon, M.B., Ch.B., B.A.O., D.P.H.
ASSISTANT MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH	F. N. Garratt, M.B., Ch.B.
PRINCIPAL SCHOOL DENTAL OFFICER	R. E. Morgan, L.D.S.
SCHOOL DENTAL OFFICER	Mrs. I. M. Millar, L.D.S.
CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR ...	C. A. Stansbury.
DEPUTY CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR Staff	E. Bayley. 12 Sanitary Inspectors. 3 Pupil Sanitary Inspectors. 7 Clerks.
PUBLIC ANALYST	F. G. D. Chalmers, MA., B.Sc., F.R.I.C.
SUPERINTENDENT HEALTH VISITOR Staff	Miss G. Johnson. 12 Health Visitors. 1 Tuberculosis Visitor. 3 Clinic Nurses. 3 School Nurses.
SUPERVISOR OF MIDWIVES ... Staff	Mrs. M. E. Smith. 14 Municipal Midwives.
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT ... Staff	P. Shoesmith. 9 Clerks. 6 Sales Clerks—Part-time.
DULY AUTHORISED OFFICER (MENTAL HEALTH SERVICE) ...	J. Wiggin. 1 part-time Deputy.
SENIOR MENTAL WELFARE OFFICER	Miss F. Grant. 1 Assistant.
SUPERVISOR OCCUPATION CENTRE	Miss E. Ratford. 2 Assistants.
MATRONS—DAY NURSERIES ...	Mrs. M. Williams. Miss L. D. Smith.
AMBULANCE SUPERVISOR	L. J. Parry.
LADY SUPT.—HOME NURSING ... Staff	Miss R. E. Bennion. 1 Assistant Supt. 9 District Nurses (Female) (Full-time) 1 District Nurse (Male) (Full-time). 5 District Nurses (Female) (Part-time)

COUNTY BOROUGH OF WALSALL

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
Medical Officer of Health

TO THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS OF THE COUNTY
BOROUGH OF WALSALL.

Madam Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I present herewith my Annual Report on the health of the County Borough of Walsall during the year 1954.

Whilst there is no spectacular innovation to report during the year the work of the Health Department has extended in every sphere. So far as health visiting and the domestic help service are concerned the limiting factor was undoubtedly our inability to recruit the necessary staff. Moreover I have little doubt that even in those spheres where we appear to have an adequate complement of staff the demand for further services could readily be stimulated, but we hesitate to do this because there would be little prospect of recruiting the necessary staff. The condition of very full employment of women in Walsall makes it extremely difficult to recruit a sufficient number of suitable women for the domestic help service and there seems little likelihood of improvement whilst this otherwise happy situation obtains.

The birth rate at 16·97 is beginning to approximate more closely to the national rate which is 15·2. The general death rate of 11·27 is slightly higher than the figure for last year, 10·56, but this difference is scarcely significant. More striking has been the improvement in the infantile mortality rate from 40·82 in 1953 to 30·77 last year. At the risk of being regarded as unduly optimistic, one has grounds for attributing this improvement to the measures taken last year to improve the co-operation between general practitioners and the local health authority in respect of the midwifery services.

Apart from a moderate incidence of poliomyelitis, infectious diseases continue to be a negligible factor affecting the health of the people. A further reduction in the death rate from respiratory tuberculosis from 0·33 per thousand of the population in 1953 to 0·31 in 1954 is to be noted, but unfortunately for Walsall's relative position there has been at the same time a reduction in the national incidence to 0·16. On the other hand a substantial reduction in the number of notifications of new cases of tuberculosis is to be noted in the tables from 218 in 1953 to 125 in 1954 and this reduction carries some promise of improvement in future death rates. This reduction in notifications is the more significant since during the related period there has undoubtedly been an intensification of effort in the fields of prevention and diagnosis in Walsall, resulting from the recognition by all concerned of the unfavourable position of Walsall in respect of respiratory tuberculosis.

The number of deaths certified as due to cancer of the lung and bronchus remains stationary at 40, whilst there was a reduction in the number of deaths certified as due to malignant new growths of all kinds from 213 in 1953 to 185 in 1954.

Housing, of course, still remains with us as a problem, but as reported last year, determined efforts are being made to overcome this difficulty by undertaking the largest possible building programme and the most rapid practicable schemes of slum clearance. Shortage of suitable labour is again a severe handicap. In view of this recurring theme of shortage of staff it is necessary that all the services provided by the Council should be used as sparingly as possible by everyone so that the maximum cover can be given to those in need. There is much need also for the fullest co-operation between the three main branches of the National Health Service, that is hospitals, general practitioners and the local authority, so as to effect the utmost economy in man-power and therefore in cost and at the same time to provide the most effective assistance to the public.

I am, Madam Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

THOMAS ROSS,

Medical Officer of Health.

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS

1. General Statistics

Area in Acres	...	...	...	...	...	...	8,780
Population	...	...	(At Census 1951)	...	...	...	114,535
Number of Structurally Separate Dwellings	(At Census 1951)						31,380
Number of Families	...	...	(At Census 1951)	...	...	...	32,425
Population 1954 (estimated)	...	...	...	...	...	...	114,900
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	...	...	£639,747
Sum represented by a penny Rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	£2,521
Population per Acre	...	...	...	...	...	...	13.1

2. Extracts from Vital Statistics

Number of Live Births Registered	...	...	...	...	1,950
(Legitimate: M., 949	F., 919	Total 1,863)			
(Illegitimate: M., 39	F., 43	Total 82)			
Number of Still Births Registered	...	...	...	...	49
(Legitimate: M., 20	F., 26	Total 46)			
(Illegitimate: M., 1	F., 2	Total 3)			
Birth Rate per 1,000 population (Live Births)	...	...	...	...	16.97
Standardised Birth Rate	...	...	...	...	15.95
Number of Deaths (M. 685, F. 610)	...	...	...	...	1,295
Crude Death Rate per 1,000 population	...	...	...	...	11.27
Standardised Death Rate	...	...	...	...	13.19
Number of Women dying in or in consequence of Pregnancy, Childbirth or Abortion	...	...	...	...	—
Maternal Mortality per 1,000 (live and still) Births	...	...	...	...	—
Number of Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age	...	...	...	...	60
Infant Mortality per 1,000 Births	...	...	...	...	30.77
Infant Mortality (legitimate infants) per 1,000 births	...	...	...	...	30.51
Do. (illegitimate infants)	do.	...	...	...	36.59

Death Rate per 1,000 Population, from—

Respiratory Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	0.31
All forms of Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	0.32
Respiratory Diseases (excluding Tuberculosis)	...	...	...	...	1.51
Cancer	...	...	...	...	1.61
Death Rate from Diarrhoea and Enteritis of Children under 2 years of age, per 1,000 births	...	...	...	...	1.03
Deaths from Diarrhoea under 2 years	...	...	...	...	2
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	...	...	—
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	...	...	1

Coroner's Inquests

The number of deaths reported to the Coroner during the year was 234 (146 males and 88 females).

Deaths investigated by the Coroner but no inquest held, 120.

POST-MORTEM EXAMINATIONS ordered by Coroner ... 204

114 inquests were held in the Borough during the year (67 males and 47 females).

SUMMARY OF INQUESTS					M.	F.
Death by Murder	...	...	...	...	1	—
„ „ Suicide	...	...	...	...	4	13
„ „ Manslaughter	...	...	...	...	—	—
„ „ Self-induced Abortion	...	...	...	...	—	—
„ „ Neglect	...	...	...	...	1	—
„ „ Want of attention at Birth	...	...	...	...	—	—
„ „ Want, Exposure, etc.	...	...	...	...	—	—
„ „ Accident or Misadventure	...	...	...	...	35	28
Death from Natural Causes	...	...	...	...	19	5
Death from Industrial Diseases	...	...	...	...	4	—
Stillborn	...	...	...	...	—	—
Open Verdicts	...	...	...	...	3	—
Adjourned	...	...	...	...	—	1
					67	47

Vital Statistics

The Birth Rate shows a decrease, being 16·97 per 1,000 of the population, compared with 17·91 for 1953, the figures for England and Wales being 15·20 and 15·50 respectively.

The Illegitimate Birth Rate shows an increase being 0·71 per 1,000 of the population, compared with 0·59 for 1953. There were 82 illegitimate births in 1954 and 68 in 1953. There was an increase in the Death Rate, this being 11·27 per 1,000 of the population, compared with 10·56 for 1953, the figures for England and Wales being 11·30 and 11·40 respectively. The Infant Mortality Rate shows a decrease, being 30·77 per 1,000 births against 40·82 in 1953. The rate for England and Wales was 25·50 and 26·80 respectively. The illegitimate Infant Mortality Rate has decreased to 36·59 per 1,000 illegitimate births from 58·82 in 1953. There were no maternal deaths. The Maternal Death Rate per 1,000 live and still births, was 0·95 in 1953. The respective rates for England and Wales were 0·69 and 0·76.

The Death Rate from Respiratory Tuberculosis has decreased to 0·31 per 1,000 of the population, from 0·33 in 1953. From other Respiratory Diseases the Death Rate has slightly decreased being 1·51 against 1·57 in 1953.

CENSUS 1951

The following information has been extracted from the Census Return of 1951:—

Population

The census population was 114,535 as against 103,059 in 1931, an increase of 11,476. The average yearly increase was 574. Ward distribution was as follows:—

Wards	Persons	Males	Females	Acres
Birchills ...	9,548 ...	4,614 ...	4,934 ...	279
Bloxwich ...	12,199 ...	5,990 ...	6,209 ...	1,858
Bridge ...	6,859 ...	3,338 ...	3,521 ...	293
Caldmore ...	8,390 ...	3,921 ...	4,469 ...	646
Harden ...	25,769 ...	12,673 ...	13,096 ...	1,136
Hatherton ...	6,220 ...	2,891 ...	3,329 ...	837
Leamore ...	7,328 ...	3,558 ...	3,770 ...	811
Paddock ...	10,471 ...	4,930 ...	5,541 ...	1,542
Palfrey ...	13,462 ...	6,534 ...	6,928 ...	608
Pleck ...	14,289 ...	6,849 ...	7,440 ...	770
Total	114,535 ...	55,298 ...	59,237 ...	8,780

The age grouping of the population was as follows:—

		Total		Males		Females
0-4 years	...	10,848	...	5,526	...	5,322
5-9	,,	9,415	...	4,875	...	4,540
10-14	,,	8,644	...	4,357	...	4,287
15-19	,,	7,498	...	3,287	...	4,211
20-24	,,	8,221	...	3,828	...	4,393
25-29	,,	9,006	...	4,447	...	4,559
30-34	,,	8,527	...	4,204	...	4,323
35-39	,,	8,581	...	4,273	...	4,308
40-44	,,	8,305	...	4,198	...	4,107
45-49	,,	7,860	...	3,950	...	3,910
50-54	,,	6,796	...	3,283	...	3,513
55-59	,,	5,596	...	2,576	...	3,020
60-64	,,	4,803	...	2,149	...	2,654
65-69	,,	4,051	...	1,718	...	2,333
70-74	,,	3,192	...	1,367	...	1,825
75-79	,,	1,993	...	823	...	1,170
80-84	,,	856	...	325	...	531
85-89	,,	282	...	100	...	182
90-94	,,	50	...	11	...	39
95 and over	...	11	...	1	...	10
Total		114,535	...	55,298	...	59,237

Marital Condition, Age and Sex Ratios

The population of 114,535 was divided as to 43·1% single persons, 50·2% married persons and 6·7% widowed or divorced. The following table shews the percentage distribution by age groups:—

0-4 years	5-14 years	15-44 years	45-65 years	65 years and over
9·5%	15·8%	43·7%	21·9%	9·1%

There were 1,071 females in the population to every 1,000 males.

Housing of Private Households

At the Census of 1951 there were in Walsall 31,380 structurally separate dwellings, with an average of 4.56 rooms per dwelling. 3.04% of the occupied dwellings consisted of 1 or 2 rooms only.

There were 32,425 households in the 31,380 dwellings with 3.49 persons per household as against 4.05 persons in 1931. 8% of the households consisted of 1 person only.

CAUSES OF DEATH AT DIFFERENT PERIODS OF LIFE IN WALSALL COUNTY BOROUGH 1954

As furnished by the Registrar-General

CAUSES OF DEATH		Sex	All Ages	0-	1-	5-	15-	25-	45-	65-	75-
ALL CAUSES		M. F.	685 610	38 22	5 1	6 7	8 6	34 38	173 115	204 166	217 255
1.	Tuberculosis—Respiratory	M. F.	24 12	— —	— —	— —	1 1	6 5	15 4	2 2	— —
2.	Tuberculosis—Other	M. F.	1 —	— —	1 —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —
3.	Syphilitic Disease	M. F.	2 1	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	1 —	1 —	— —
4.	Diphtheria	M. F.	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —
5.	Whooping Cough	M. F.	1 —	— —	1 —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —
6.	Meningococcal Infections	M. F.	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis	M. F.	1 1	— —	— —	— —	— —	1 —	— 1	— —	— —
8.	Measles	M. F.	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —
9.	Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	M. F.	3 —	— —	1 —	— —	— —	1 —	1 —	— —	— —
10.	Malignant Neoplasm—Stomach	M. F.	23 20	— —	— —	— —	— —	2 6	12 2	6 7	3 5
11.	„ „ Lung, Bronchus	M. F.	17 3	— —	— —	— —	— —	1 1	10 1	5 —	1 1
12.	„ „ Breast	M. F.	1 17	— —	— —	— —	— —	— 1	— 8	— 6	— 2
13.	„ „ Uterus	F. F.	6	—	—	—	—	1	2	2	1
14.	Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	M. F.	54 44	— —	— —	2 —	— —	2 2	15 21	19 8	16 12
15.	Leukæmia, Aleukæmia	M. F.	1 1	— —	— —	— —	— —	1 1	— —	— —	— —

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR 1954

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE	CASES NOTIFIED IN WHOLE DISTRICT												TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED IN EACH WARD										
	At All Ages	At Ages—Years											Bloxwich Ward	Leamore Ward	Blakenall Ward	Birchills Ward	Hatherton Ward	Paddock Ward	Bridge Ward	Pleck Ward	Caldmore Ward	Palfrey Ward	
		Under 1	1 to 2	2 to 3	3 to 4	4 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 65											65 and upwards
Small-Pox..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		
Erysipelas..	16	—	—	—	—	1	99	19	—	—	4	5	6	—	—	—	1	1	5	2	—		
Scarlet Fever	160	—	3	6	15	16	99	19	1	1	—	—	—	21	47	12	12	6	8	5	26		
Enteric Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		
Paratyphoid	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		
Measles ..	92	9	10	8	15	10	35	1	1	3	—	—	—	6	23	2	7	1	22	2	7		
Whooping Cough..	752	95	93	91	89	106	257	16	—	1	2	2	—	131	195	25	30	17	78	34	49		
Puerperal Pyrexia	16	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7	8	1	—	—	4	5	1	—	—	6	—	—		
Meningococcal Infection	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—		

Poliomyelitis — Paralytic ..	14	—	1	3	—	2	—	—	—	1	5	3	1	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis Non-Paralytic ..	2	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ..	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	
Acute Encephalitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Acute Primary and Influenzal Pneu- monia	215	20	13	2	4	4	4	27	7	9	15	23	66	25	26	33	54	16	14	13	12	19	17	11
Malaria (Contracted Abroad) ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery ..	31	2	4	4	8	3	6	1	2	1	—	—	—	—	2	8	14	1	—	—	3	1	2	—

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Diphtheria

No cases of Diphtheria were notified. 1,883 children (856 under the age of five years and 1,027 between the ages of five and fifteen), were immunised against the disease. 795 children were given a reinforcing dose.

Scarlet Fever

160 cases of Scarlet Fever were notified during the year, as compared with 132 in the previous year. The disease was of a mild character and there were no deaths.

Measles

Measles was much less prevalent, only 92 cases being notified as compared with 2,265 in the previous year. There were no deaths.

Whooping Cough

752 cases of Whooping Cough were notified as compared with 537. There was one death.

Acute Poliomyelitis

14 cases of Poliomyelitis (Paralytic) and 2 cases of Poliomyelitis (Non-paralytic) were notified. There were 2 deaths.

Acute Primary or Influenzal Pneumonia

215 cases were notified as compared with 221. There were 62 deaths from this cause during the year, a decrease of 3 on the previous year. Influenza accounted for 23 deaths as compared with 17 in the previous year.

Dysentery

31 cases of Dysentery were notified during the year.

Other Diseases

16 cases of Erysipelas, 1 case of Ophthalmia Neonatorum, 16 cases of Puerperal Pyrexia, 1 case of Meningococcal Infection and 11 case of Malaria (contracted abroad) were notified during the year.

Food Poisoning

6 cases of Food Poisoning were notified during the year.

NURSING HOMES

At the end of the year there were no nursing homes remaining on the register, the one which was registered to take 3 maternity cases being closed in September.

There is one Home for Disabled and Old Persons, Registered under the National Assistance Act, 1948.

The Senior Medical Officer has paid 3 visits during the year.

SCABIES TREATMENT

The Scabies Clinic at Hatherton Road is still maintained and during the past year the number of cases attending has slightly increased.

Although the number of cases of scabies in the town is very much less than in the years following the war, we still feel it is necessary to provide clinic facilities.

During the year 4 men, 3 women and 39 children received treatment, these cases making a total number of 100 attendances for this purpose.

CLEANSING OF PERSONS

The arrangement whereby unclean persons are cleansed at St. John's Hospital has been continued and throughout the year 18 persons received the necessary treatment by arrangement with the Health Department.

Restrictions on building prevented the establishment of our own Cleansing Station at Hatherton Road and, in agreement with the Walsall Hospital Management Committee, the present arrangements for the cleansing of persons are to be continued.

NURSERIES AND CHILD-MINDERS

The Nurseries and Child-minders Regulations Act, 1948 provides for the registration of nurseries and child-minders where children numbering more than 2 and who come from more than one household are cared for. The Act does not apply to the care of children by relatives.

The care of such children in Walsall has never been a serious problem and up to the end of the year no premises or persons had been registered under the Act.

PATHOLOGICAL EXAMINATIONS

The arrangements for the examination of pathological and bacteriological specimens by the National Laboratories Service have continued throughout the year. The laboratory, situated at Stafford, is directed by the Medical Research Council for the Ministry of Health, and the service is a complete one covering all our possible requirements.

The medical staff of the Health Department send specimens for examination regularly and the service is also open to any of the local medical practitioners.

The bacteriological examination of milk and other specimens is also carried out.

VENEREAL DISEASES

The Venereal Diseases Clinic is situated at Manor Hospital, Walsall, the Hospital Management Committee being responsible for the work carried out at the clinic.

We are, however, still concerned with the incidence of Venereal Diseases in the town and continue to work in close co-operation with the Venereal Diseases Medical Officer.

The following table shows the work of the Venereal Diseases Clinic during the year:—

TABLE SHOWING THE WORK OF THE VENEREAL DISEASES CLINIC DURING THE YEAR 1954

	Syphilis		Gonorrhœa		Conditions other than Venereal		Totals		Totals
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	
Number of cases on Register 1st January, 1954 ..	50	44	27	8	28	15	105	67	172
Number of old cases returned for treatment or observation of same infection	3	1	—	—	—	—	3	1	4
Number of new cases dealt with for the first time ..	10	6	39	9	149	219	198	234	432
Number of new cases transferred from other centres ..	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	1
Total cases dealt with	63	51	67	17	177	234	307	302	609
Attendances—Medical examinations	491	316	481	111	660	510	1632	937	2569
Irrigation, dressings	207	157	100	24	501	329	808	510	1318
Total attendances	698	473	581	135	1161	839	2440	1447	3887
Number of new cases attending during 1954	13 3		34 14		196 172		243 189		243 189
Walsall									
Staffordshire									
Pathological Work — Specimens examined at Walsall Clinic do. at an Approved Laboratory	Microscopical		Cultural		Serum		Cerebro Spinal Fluid		Others for Diagnosis of Venereal Disease
	for Syphilis	for Gonorrhœa			for Syphilis	for Gonorrhœa			
	34 —	927 —	544 —		— 520	— 3	— 2		

HEALTH EDUCATION

Throughout the year we have continued our campaign of health education by means of posters, lectures and talks to various groups, and find these methods a most effective way of bringing our viewpoint to the public. The method adopted is not spectacular, but the cumulative effect of persistently impressing health education on various groups does bring its reward. Posters supplied by the Central Council for Health Education and the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents are displayed at the Welfare Centres, Clinics and waiting rooms in the Council House, and these posters prove very useful indeed. Particular attention has been given throughout the year to accidents and dangers in the home and this side of our education work is to receive continued attention.

The system of personal approach to parents relating to vaccination and infant diphtheria immunisation has been continued during the present year. Briefly this approach consists of a reminder, which is sent to parents when their child attains the age of three months, of the facilities which are available for vaccination against smallpox and inviting parents to make an appointment to have their child vaccinated. Upon the child attaining the age of one year a Birthday Card is sent to each child not already immunised, which also reminds the parents of the need for diphtheria immunisation and an invitation to make an appointment for this to be carried out. On the whole we feel these steady and persistent reminders of the dangers of diphtheria has its effect, and, whilst we would wish for a much higher percentage of acceptances both for diphtheria immunisation and vaccination, nevertheless the progress made in educating the public must be accounted reasonably satisfactory.

Lectures have been given to Parent-Teacher Associations and study groups during the year, 80 lectures being given in all. A special film display was given to the domestic help staff at which the Medical Officer of Health emphasised that the domestic help was an integral part of the health service and drew the attention of the helps to the fact that they were representing the Health Department in the home and should, whenever possible, convey our point of view on health matters to the families concerned. In addition to the film on the Domestic Help Service, the opportunity was taken to display a film on Safety in the Home with particular emphasis on accidents which might occur in the kitchen and generally throughout the home. The films concerned fulfil a useful and instructive function and convey to the help quite simply the general viewpoint on health propaganda.

Although we are limited in the amount of time which can be given to health education owing to the shortage of staff, we are always willing to arrange for film shows or lectures to be given to any group which requests this service and the officers concerned have quite freely given of their spare time to help in this work.

CARE OF MOTHERS AND YOUNG CHILDREN

Dr. I. M. Brown, the Senior Medical Officer of Health for Maternity and Child Welfare, has supplied the following report upon the work in her department:—

“Last year arrangements were made with the general practitioners and the health department for improved co-operation in respect of the supervision of expectant mothers, and these arrangements have now been working for a complete year. 577 new ante-natal cases attended at the clinics during the year as against 444 in the previous year and an additional 336 attendances were also made. The clinics, for their part have referred 103 patients to their own doctors under the new arrangements and advised these patients to book their own doctors for their confinements.

Of the 996 confinements attended by the domiciliary midwifery staff, 906 had engaged their own doctors to attend them, 64 of these cases actually having their own doctor present at the birth. 90 of the domiciliary midwifery cases had not engaged a doctor to be present, but in four cases medical attention was requested. The gas and air apparatus was used on 646 occasions.

We are very pleased to report there were no maternal deaths during the year.

47 stillbirths were notified to the department; of these 31 occurred in hospital or maternity homes and 16 on the district. An analysis of the probable causes of these stillbirths is given below:—

Fœtal deformity	...	...	...	6
Siamese twin and twin pregnancy	...			5
Post maturity	...	...	...	1
Hydramnios	...	...	...	1
Toxæmia and eclampsia	...	...		6
Ante-partum hæmorrhage	...	...		4
Accident	...	...	...	1
Ante-natal fœtal death	...	...		4
Delayed labour	...	...	...	2
Born before arrival of midwife	...			2
Abnormal presentation	...	...		5
Prematurity	...	...	...	3
Tuberculosis	...	...	...	1
Unknown	...	...	...	6

Of these stillbirths 13 of the mothers had attended the ante-natal clinic for varying periods.

Relaxation classes and mothercraft training courses have been continued during the year and are much appreciated by the mothers.

The scheme for dental treatment for expectant and nursing mothers and young children has continued during the year and on the whole the results can be counted satisfactory. Of the 116 mothers examined, 110 were found to require treatment, 81 received treatment, 7 are awaiting treatment, whilst 22 mothers either refused treatment or failed to keep the appointments made for them. The response to the call for treatment was rather surprising to us as many mothers have a prejudice against any dental treatment during pregnancy and I think tribute should be paid to Mrs. Millar, our Dental Officer, for the understanding way in which she has dealt with her patients. I am sure her kindness and tact has contributed to the successful results which we have had. There is still a very remarkable tendency for mothers to prefer to allow their teeth to go until an extraction is necessary and only continued education can correct this avoidance of conservative treatment.

Routine blood tests are carried out on all new cases attending the ante-natal clinics. During 1954 2 mothers were found to be rhesus negative with agglutinins present and were consequently referred to Manor Hospital for delivery. 2 patients were referred to the venereal diseases clinic. 1 was an old infection and as a result of treatment the child was born quite healthy, the other was referred on account of gonorrhœa, also with a satisfactory conclusion.

Our child welfare centres continue to be fairly well attended. Mothers are increasingly requesting whooping cough immunisation and this inoculation is carried out at the clinics. The use of a combined immunisation against diphtheria and whooping cough would be very much appreciated by mothers and infants, mainly owing to the reduction in the number of injections required. The number of children who have been submitted for vaccination against smallpox is still not at all satisfactory in spite of our constant endeavours to persuade mothers to agree to this protection.

Since the introduction of the new rates of charges for the children at the day nurseries attendances have been reduced very considerably. As a result of this policy, children now tend to be left in the care of neighbours and relations with, in many cases, frequent change of "mindere." Many of our former day nursery children have been admitted to nursery schools where the charge for meals is very modest.

The last of the private maternity homes in Walsall closed during the year so that there are now no private paying beds for maternity cases in the borough."

CHILD WELFARE CENTRES

There are six child welfare centres in Walsall at which eleven sessions are held weekly, attended by a medical officer and health visitors. There are no special consultant clinics, children requiring a specialist opinion being referred to one of the general hospitals in the town. No arrangements have been made for joint clinics with general practitioners in their own premises. Whilst attendances are not as satisfactory as we would like nevertheless they must be accounted reasonably good taking into account the services provided by general practitioners under the health services.

Talks on mothercraft are given regularly at the child welfare centres to nursing mothers, accompanied by suitable demonstrations. In addition special sewing class sessions are held at which garment making and remodelling is taught by an instructress provided by the local education authority.

Commencing January 1954 adult mothercraft classes were instituted for young mothers expecting their first babies. The course consisted of 13 lectures which were later reduced to 6. Attendances were good during the early part of the year but declined towards the end of the year. The greatest difficulty in maintaining these classes is that the young mother tends to continue at work as long as possible.

A welfare centre is urgently required on the new Gipsy Lane Housing Estate and plans have been prepared and are under consideration for a combined welfare centre, school clinic and dental clinic to be erected on this site. We hope that final approval for the building will be given during 1955. Another welfare centre is also required in the Coalpool area and it is hoped to obtain approval for its erection after the Gipsy Lane centre has been built.

The total number of attendances made by health visitors at local health authority clinic sessions during the year was 1,589.

Attendances Registered at the Child Welfare Centres during 1954

CENTRE	Under 6 months		6—12 months		1—2 years		2—5 years		Total		New Cases
	A.	M.	A.	M.	A.	M.	A.	M.	A.	M.	
Pool St.	1464	394	892	191	550	151	692	135	3598	871	209
F'ld Rd.	2657	779	1291	301	757	244	912	164	5617	1488	422
L'ton St.	1747	474	1034	248	645	175	795	139	4221	1036	274
C'tess St.	1857	532	1173	317	655	224	506	147	4191	1220	256
Ida Rd.	1792	423	1295	293	900	202	1092	231	5079	1149	222
D'dley's Fields'	548	177	335	97	308	81	447	75	1638	430	99
Totals	10065	2779	6020	1447	3815	1077	4444	891	24344	6194	1482

A.—Attendances.

M.—Medical Examinations

Attendances Registered at the Ante-Natal and Post-Natal Clinics during 1954

	Pool St.		Field Rd.		Countess Street		Ida Rd.		Littleton Street		Totals	
	A.	M.	A.	M.	A.	M.	A.	M.	A.	M.	A.	M.
Ante-natal Cases	282	217	863	538	453	322	469	329	504	365	2571	1771
Ante-natal New Cases	84		182		91		95		125		577	
Post-natal Cases	1	1	1	1	—	—	1	1	1	1	4	4
Post-natal New Cases	1		1		—		1		1		4	

A.—Attendances.

M.—Medical Examinations.

DENTAL TREATMENT

The Council's proposals under Section 22 of the National Service Act provide for every expectant mother to be examined by a Dental Practitioner following her first attendance at an Ante-Natal Clinic, for the periodic examination of children under the age of five years and for the necessary treatment to be provided where required, particular attention to be paid to conservative treatment.

During the year 58 dental sessions were devoted to maternity and child welfare patients, 116 expectant and nursing mothers were examined and 110 were found to require treatment. 81 of these patients attended the Dental Clinic and at the end of the year 47 cases had completed their course of attendances. 12 complete dentures and 17 partial dentures were provided. 138 children under the age of 5 years were examined and 55 were found to need treatment, 26 of whom were made dentally fit.

DAY NURSERIES

There are two Day Nurseries, one situated at the Bescot Methodist School and the other at the Blakenall Congregational School, both Nurseries having been open throughout the whole year.

Mainly the Nurseries are now used by priority classes, that is, the children of parents who of necessity must go out to work, and for such priority cases a specially reduced scale of charges has been instituted by the Health Committee. For these priority cases the Nurseries meet a need which probably cannot be met in any other way and it is expected the Nurseries will continue catering for such children.

The following table shows the average attendances at the nurseries during the year:—

Day Nursery	Average No. on Register	Total No. of attendances	Average daily attendances
Bescot	19	3,227	13.2
Blakenall	24	3,969	16.3

Maternity Outfits

The provision of a maternity outfit to each expectant mother confined at home has been continued, and during the year 1,030 outfits have been issued. The composition of the pack is as follows:—

12 Extra Large Maternity Pads, 24 Large Maternity Pads, individually wrapped, 1 Sheet Tarred Brown Paper, 30 x 36, 1 Accouchement Sheet, 24 x 24, 4 2-oz. packets Surgeons Wool, 3 1 yd. Linen Thread, 6 Cord Dressings (5 x 5 lint), 6 packets Sterilized Cord Powder.

The distribution of the outfits is made through the Municipal Midwives, a sufficient stock being maintained by them to meet all possible needs. There is no doubt the provision of these outfits has been of great benefit to mothers whose confinements are to take place at home and we know they are very much appreciated. The Midwives, also, are assured of adequate equipment for the confinement, together with sterile dressings, and their work has been facilitated accordingly.

Provision of Foods

Commencing July 1954, the Council became responsible for the distribution of National Dried Milk, Orange Juice, Cod Liver Oil and Vitamin Tablets in addition to their normal sale of welfare foods, etc.

Arrangements were made for the distribution of the national foods at the normal welfare centre sessions and we are satisfied that this arrangement is providing an efficient and economical service. All foods are available at these sessions so that mothers have the opportunity of consulting either the Medical Officer or the Health Visitor at the same time that they receive their foods. From our point of view it gives an opportunity for closer supervision and regular contact with infants and children.

One whole-time and five part-time sales women are employed on this work, two of these employees having been taken over from the Ministry of Food.

The following table shows the types and amounts of food sold during the year at the Welfare Centres and it will be noted that provision has been fully made for every type of food to be sold to meet the individual children's needs:—

40,289 tins	Full Cream National Dried Milk
524 tins	Half Cream National Dried Milk
7,959 bottles	Cod Liver Oil
2,174 pkts.	Vitamin Tablets
31,200 bottles	Orange Juice
5,844 lb.	Cow and Gate Dried Milk
2,131 lb.	Ostermilk
2,228 lb.	Trufood
627 tins	Lactagol
1,418 tubs	Virol
2,527 tins	Ovaltine
148 lb.	Malt and Oil
1,358 pkts.	Farex
637 pkts.	Scotts Cereal Infant Food
108 pkts.	Groats
122 pkts.	Robrex

In addition, should any child need a special food, even for only a limited period, steps are immediately taken to obtain a supply for the mother, though the purchase of such foods may occasionally involve the department in a slight financial loss.

UNMARRIED MOTHERS AND CHILDREN

Care of Illegitimate Children. The Walsall County Borough, as the Welfare Authority, is a constituent authority of the Staffordshire County Council Scheme for the care of illegitimate children and their mothers.

41 cases in which illegitimate births occurred in 1954 have been dealt with by Sister Ellis, the Outdoor Worker for the area.

3 mothers remained in their own homes for confinement.

11 went to hospital.

21 were accommodated in Diocesan Homes.

3 were accommodated in a Salvation Army Home.

1 accommodated in a Roman Catholic Home.

1 in a private Nursing Home.

1 referred to another Worker.

The babies born in 1954 were accommodated as follows:—

16 with their mothers at home.

17 adopted through the Association.

1 placed by its own mother for adoption.

1 cared for by mother's sister.

2 taken into care by Children's Committee.

1 transferred to another Worker.

1 stillborn.

2 died almost immediately after birth.

It was possible to obtain only 3 Affiliation Orders on which the putative fathers are paying regularly. In one case which was taken to Court there was insufficient corroboration so no Order was made. A grant was paid towards maintenance of one child by Dr. Barnardo's.

5 cases concerned married women: 2 of these were divorced, 2 deserted by their husbands and in one case a reconciliation was affected after the child had been adopted.

1 girl married in December 1954 and seems to have settled happily.

A girl who was charged with larceny before the birth of her baby went to a Maternity Home for the birth of her child and was later sent to an Approved School and the child placed with the Local Authority.

1 mother was aged 14 and was cared for in the Diocesan Home. Another case was that of a girl of 15, the boy responsible for her condition was only 17 years of age and although he wanted to marry the girl when she was old enough the parents refused consent. The child was adopted and the mother is now living in satisfactory conditions with her parents. 2 girls were 16 years of age: 4 were 17: other ages ranged between 18 and 45.

Several girls who have been helped prior to 1954 have been kept in touch with and 7 cases of girls whose babies were expected in 1955 have had arrangements made for them.

PREMATURE INFANTS

Notifications were received in respect of 151 infants whose birth weight was $5\frac{1}{2}$ lb. or under, a decrease of one over the previous year. In some cases the notifications applied to infants who, although the birth weight was $5\frac{1}{2}$ lb. or less, were really full-term, but these infants were given the same care as those prematurely born.

Of the 151 infants notified, 69 were born at home, 79 in hospital and 3 in a private nursing home. There were 6 sets of twins. Thirteen of the infants born at home were transferred to hospital. Four of the 56 infants nursed entirely at home died in the first 24 hours and 50 survived at the twenty-eighth day. Three of the 13 infants who were born at home and transferred to hospital, died in the first 24 hours and 8 survived at the twenty-eighth day.

Five of the 79 infants born in hospital died in the first 24 hours and 68 survived at the end of 28 days.

The 3 infants born in a private nursing home survived at the twenty-eighth day.

Of the 60 infants who died under the age of one year, 19 were certified as having died from prematurity: 18 of these babies were of low birth weight.

There were 19 notifications of premature still-births, 15 of these being born in hospital and 4 at home.

Emergency Maternity Service

Arrangements are in force for the services of an emergency team of doctors and nurses from Manor Hospital with the necessary equipment, to attend complicated cases of labour on the district when required.

Maternal Mortality

There were no maternal deaths during the year. The death rate per thousand of live and still births in England and Wales was 0·76.

Infectious Diseases

There was one case of Ophthalmia Neonatorum notified during the year. After treatment the vision was unimpaired and the infant made a good recovery.

There were 16 cases of Puerperal Pyrexia notified during the year.

INFANT MORTALITY

The infant death rate per thousand births was 30·77 for the year, a decrease over the rate for 1953 which was 40·82. The infant death rate per thousand births for illegitimate infants was 36·59. The infant death rate per thousand births for England and Wales was 25·50.

An examination of the table relating to Infant Mortality reveals that 66% of deaths under one year of age occurred during the first four weeks of life, 40 children out of a total of 60 dying during this period. A further 9 deaths, or 15%, occurred between the ages of one and three months.

Of the total of 60 infant deaths, 19 were from prematurity, 2 from influenza, 7 from pneumonia, 12 from congenital malformations, 2 from diarrhoea and enteritis, 1 accidental, 5 from diseases peculiar to infants and 12 from other causes. It will be seen, therefore, that 60% of the deaths were due to premature birth, congenital malformation and infant diseases, and it would appear the causes of many of these deaths must be sought in conditions which operate ante-natally. It is of the utmost importance that the standard of ante-natal care available to our expectant mothers should be of the highest. The work of hospitals, medical practitioners, ante-natal services, midwives and health visitors should be integrated to attain maximum co-operation of all services and when that satisfactory position has been attained some improvement of the present position may be expected.

Care of Premature Infants

The hospital provision for the care of premature infants is adequate and premature infants are transferred to hospital whenever necessary. To those premature infants remaining at home special nursing care is given by the midwives and by the health visitors.

INFANT MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1954 Deaths from stated Causes at various ages under One year of age

CAUSES OF DEATH	Total Deaths under 1 year	Under 1 week	1-2 weeks	2-3 weeks	3-4 weeks	Total under 4 weeks	1 & under 3 months	3 & under 6 months	6 & under 9 months	9 & under 12 months	Bloxwich	Leamore	Blakenall	Birchills	Hatherton	Paddock	Bridge	Pleck	Caldmore	Palfrey
Measles	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Common Infectious Diseases	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diarrhoea and Enteritis ..	2	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Premature Birth ..	19	18	1	—	—	19	—	—	—	—	2	2	4	—	—	2	2	5	—	2
Congenital Malformations ..	12	4	—	2	—	6	4	1	1	—	—	3	5	—	1	1	—	1	—	1
Infant Diseases ..	5	3	1	—	—	4	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	1	1	—
Influenza	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia	7	—	—	2	1	3	1	2	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	1	2
Accidents	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Causes	12	8	—	—	—	8	—	2	2	—	1	—	3	—	2	2	—	2	1	1
Totals	60	33	2	4	1	40	9	6	4	1	6	5	16	1	3	5	5	9	3	7

Nett Births in the Year — Legitimate, 1868 ; Illegitimate, 82.
 Nett Deaths in the Year of Legitimate Infants, 57 ; Illegitimate Infants, 3.

MIDWIFERY SERVICE

The Council operates a Municipal Midwifery Service, the staff of which consisted of 1 Supervisor and 14 Midwives at the end of the year. The service is under the medical supervision of the Senior Medical Officer for Maternity and Child Welfare and under the constant supervision of the Supervisor of Midwives. For all practical purposes there are no domiciliary midwives employed other than those engaged by the authority.

All the midwives are qualified to administer analgesics, having received their training either at the Birmingham Maternity Hospital, where special courses were arranged, or as part of their S.C.M. qualification. The Midwives arrange for the ante-natal supervision of their cases either at the ante-natal clinic or at the homes of the patients. Following upon negotiations with the general practitioners a closer working arrangement has been formulated between the ante-natal clinics and the patient's own doctor and it is to be hoped this arrangement will ultimately prove successful. As mentioned previously experimental ante-natal clinics have been commenced at the premises of four general practitioners with members of our midwifery and health visiting staffs attending.

There is close co-operation between the hospitals and the health department relating to the admission of women whose confinement in hospital is recommended on social grounds. Cases are referred to the department by the hospital and the health visiting staff make the necessary enquiries and complete a form of report which is subsequently transmitted to the hospital, where a decision is made relating to the provision of accommodation. The department also co-operates with the Manor Hospital in the training of pupil midwives, the district training being carried out under the supervision of the Supervisor of Midwives, and this arrangement is working well. Lectures are given to the pupil midwives by the medical staff of the department on public health subjects.

Of the Walsall cases delivered, the Municipal Midwives attended 996 cases at home and 819 cases were delivered at the Manor Hospital, the Maternity Hospital at Bloxwich, or at the one private Nursing Home in the borough. It will be seen, therefore, that 55% of all Walsall deliveries in the borough occurred at home and this gives an average of 69 cases attended by each domiciliary midwife during the year. In addition Municipal Midwives carried out 8,050 ante-natal home visits to their own patients.

146 Walsall women were confined outside the borough, 143 in hospitals or nursing homes and 3 in private residences.

The Midwives undertake the nursing of mothers discharged from the maternity units before the fourteenth day from their confinements and during 1954 528 such mothers were attended. Although this

additional nursing throws a considerable volume of work upon the service .we always assist the hospitals when patients have to be discharged before the fourteenth day after confinement. We are very glad indeed to have maintained this excellent co-operation with the Walsall Hospital Management Committee's provision; indeed, without this effective co-operation the Midwifery Service of the town would be greatly handicapped.

Six gas and air outfits are available to women at confinement and during the year the apparatus was in use on 646 occasions. The use of Pethedine by the Midwives, commenced in 1951 has been continued, the drug being administered to 484 patients during 1954.

Domiciliary Midwifery Service—1954

(including Nursing Homes)

	Domiciliary Midwives	Midwives in Nursing Homes	Totals
No. of Midwives practising in the Borough at the end of 1954 (ex- cluding Hospitals)—			
(a) Employed by the Council	15	—	15
(b) In private practice ..	—	—	—
	15	—	15
	Domiciliary Cases	Cases in Nursing Homes	Totals
No. of cases in the Borough attended by Midwives—			
(a) Employed by the Council—			
(i) As Midwives	928	—	928
(ii) As Maternity Nurses	68	—	68
(b) In private practice —			
(i) As Midwives	—	26	26
(ii) As Maternity Nurses	—	3	3
TOTALS { (i) As Midwives ..	928	26	954
(ii) As Maternity Nurses	68	3	71

HEALTH VISITING

The Council has an arrangement for the training of suitable officers to obtain the Health Visitors' Certificate. The scheme is in co-operation with the Birmingham City Health Department and has been in operation for some years, each participating local authority bearing their proportion of the cost of training. The arrangement works extremely well and without such a scheme it would be almost impossible to attract health visitors to industrial towns of this nature.

Unfortunately there is a great shortage of suitable candidates for training as Health Visitors and, for the first time since its inception, no such candidates were recruited in Walsall in 1954. This shortage of potential Health Visitors is general throughout the country and it is to be hoped that sufficient nurses will be attracted to a Public Health career in the near future, otherwise it will be necessary to arrange for some dilution of the work of the Health Visitors in order to maintain even the existing services. The National Health Service Act of 1946 envisaged the care of the family, including the aged, and it is necessary that an adequate supply of trained Health Visitors should be available for this work.

The Health Visiting staff at the end of the year consisted of 1 Superintendent Health Visitor, 12 Health Visitors, 1 Tuberculosis Visitor, 3 Clinic Nurses and 3 School Nurses.

Despite the shortage of trained Health Visitors we have been able to continue the extension of our work under the National Health Service Act as forecast in last year's report. In addition to visiting expectant and nursing mothers and young children and the staffing of the various welfare centres and ante-natal clinics in the borough, we have continued our co-operation with the hospital services for the care of diabetics and of the aged. Some of our Health Visitors attend at the Diabetic Out-patient Clinic at the hospital and also attend the patients in their own homes where advice and instruction is given.

Our work in the visitation of the aged has been placed on a secure footing during the year. Although there is no available register of the aged, an arrangement has been made with the Housing Department of the Corporation and the Hospitals for the supply of names and addresses of aged persons thought to be in need of care and attention. In addition, of course, the Health Visitor herself soon becomes aware of aged persons residing in her district, and the Women's Voluntary Service also refer cases to the department where they are of opinion we can give advice and assistance. Slowly we are building up a register of aged persons and, provided sufficient staff is available, we look forward to the time when every elderly person will benefit from the friendly and practical visit of the Health Visitor. This work is to become more and more important as times goes on and the experience which is becoming available to us will, we hope, make our help more effective in years to come.

The hospitals have supplied us regularly with the names and diagnosis of children discharged from hospital and this notification is of practical benefit in allowing our health visitors to follow up these cases where necessary. Co-operation between the hospital and the Public Health services is something which we wish to further, and no opportunity is lost on our part to forward this idea. The Superintendent Health Visitor now gives lectures on the social aspects of medicine to student nurses and arranges for the nurses to pay visits with the health visiting and district nursing staff to see the practical aspects of the subjects taught. We are very glad indeed that social medicine has been added to the student nurses curriculum for it has long been felt that the nursing staff of hospitals were unaware of the home difficulties of their patients and it is to the good that a student nurse should understand the work of the health visitor so that, eventually, a proper understanding and co-operation shall exist between the services.

Work has also been continued in connection with the B.C.G. vaccination scheme whereby children in their final year at secondary modern schools have been vaccinated. This work has been done in conjunction with the Medical Research Council and the co-operation between us has been very effective. Work is still proceeding and we feel that in this sphere some excellent work has been carried out.

Arrangements were made during the year for six of the health visiting staff to attend a mental health course in Birmingham and the knowledge gained at the course will enable our staff to deal more adequately and sympathetically with the problems of the mentally ill with which they are now actively concerned.

Health Visiting and Tuberculosis Visiting during 1954

HEALTH VISITORS											TUBER- CULOSIS VISITORS	
Number of children under 5 years of age visited during year	Expectant Mothers		Children under 1 year of age		Children age 1 and under 2 years		Children age 2 but under 5 years		Tuberculous Households	Other Cases	Total number of families or households visited by Health Visitors	Total visits paid to tuberculous households
	First Visits	Total Visits	First Visits	Total Visits	Total Visits	Total Visits	Total Visits	Total Visits				
11967	1252	1529	1913	14915	7989	16331	11	4304	10845	2055		

HOME NURSING

The duty laid upon the Council to make provision for securing a nursing service for all persons who require nursing in their own homes was carried out by agreement with the Trustees of the Victoria Nursing Institution as in previous years. The Institution provided the staff and a Joint Committee of the Institution and the Council controlled the service. These arrangements, which had been in force since 1948, continued until the end of March 1954 when, by mutual agreement, the functions of the Trustees of the Institution were transferred to the Local Authority as from the 1st April, 1954.

The Trustees were anxious that the work of the Institution, which had been so ably carried on for many years, should be maintained and the Council were able to assure the Trustees that not only would the service be maintained but that it was their intention to extend as necessary and to maintain the spirit of service which has actuated the officers and staff of the Institution for so long a period.

The take-over of the service on the 1st April was effected smoothly and we think it is true to say that the service previously provided has been continued throughout the year and the very good spirit of co-operation which existed is still faithfully maintained. All credit is due to the Committee of the Victoria Nursing Institution and its Officers for the very fine work which they have carried out in the town for so many years, and they can be justly proud of their service to the community.

For the first time for many years there has been the staff available to cope with the more urgent demands made upon the Home Nursing Service, although we still have difficulty in obtaining sufficient nurses for our requirements. We have lately appointed our first male nurse and I am sure this appointment will be of great assistance for the special type of case requiring male nursing.

The arrangements with general practitioners and hospitals are very complete, as they have been for many years. Arrangements are made, for cases requiring nursing at home, by the hospital or the general practitioner direct with the Lady Superintendent of the Institution, and the instructions of the medical officers of the hospitals are transmitted to the nurses on the district. Similarly the general practitioner in charge of a case at home gives instructions to the district nurse regarding dressings and treatment, and one can say that there would seem to be little more that can be done to improve the service.

The shortage of staff precludes consideration of the establishment of a night service, nor has there been any serious demand for this facility. Similarly the shortage of staff prevented arrangements being made for nursing staff to attend refresher courses or for District Nurse training.

At the end of the year there were employed 1 Lady Superintendent, 1 Assistant Superintendent, 10 full-time Nurses (9 female, 1 male) and 5 part-time Nurses.

Cases attended and visits paid by Home Nursing Staff during 1954

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	Patients included in (2)-(7) who were 65 or over at the time of the first visit during the year (9)	Children included in (2)-(7) who were under 5 at the time of the first visit during the year (10)	Patients included in (2)-(7) who have had more than 24 visits during the year (11)
	Medical	Surgical	Infectious Diseases	Tuber- culosis	Maternal Compli- cations	Others	Totals			
Cases ...	953	59	2	184	18	36	1252	605	31	464
Visits ...	34867	3114	9	6858	172	579	45599	27635	115	39513

VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION

VACCINATION

During the year 504 Primary Vaccinations were carried out, 295 by doctors at the Infant Welfare Centres and 209 by General Practitioners.

There were 50 re-vaccinations and 12 proved unsuccessful.

VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION

Arrangements are in force whereby infants can be vaccinated, or immunised against diphtheria, at the Child Welfare Centres or by general practitioners. The medical officer attending the centres and the health visitors, both at the centres and during their visits to homes, remind parents continually of the need for this protection. In addition invitation leaflets are sent to parents by the Health Department pointing out the necessity for vaccination and immunisation and this, together with the national publicity campaign on diphtheria immunisation, has its effect upon a good proportion of parents. It can be said that no parent is unaware of the facilities offered, nor do they ignore immunisation in particular through lack of information.

Immunisation against Whooping Cough is available at the Child Welfare Centres.

Facilities for boosting injections of diphtheria prophylactic are available at all child welfare centres and again at school, when immunisation or a boosting dose, as necessary, is offered to every child each year.

The following table shows the ages at vaccination and re-vaccination:—

	Under 1 year	1 year	2—4 years	5—14 years	15 years and over	Total
Vaccinated ...	438	9	16	16	25	504
Re-vaccinated ...	—	—	1	13	36	50

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

Arrangements are made at each of our Child Welfare Centres, Day Nurseries and School Clinics for the immunisation of children against Diphtheria. Visits are also paid to the schools for the immunisation of school children and for the administration of re-inforcing doses.

During 1954, 856 children under the age of five years and 1,027 between the ages of five and fifteen were immunised. In addition 795 children were given a re-inforcing dose.

Of the total, 335 were immunised and 10 given a re-inforcing dose by private medical practitioners under the Authority's scheme, the remainder being immunised by the Local Health Authority's own medical officers.

Diphtheria Immunisation

Table showing number of children immunised each year, by age groups

Year immunised	Under 5	5-14	Total	No. of children given re-inforcing injection	Cases of Diphtheria notified
1954	856	1027	1883	795	—
1953	858	899	1757	879	—
1952	906	898	1804	1273	—
1951	825	888	1713	1228	2
1950	570	956	1526	1413	2
1949	1171	1167	2338	2111	3
1948	1224	1238	2462	4314	3
1947	1089	725	1814	333	14
1946	957	1104	2061	598	18
1945	1144	1409	2553	}	34
1944	1136	1610	2746		76
1943	1567	2488	4055		196
1942	1708	2766	4474		201
1941	883	2233	3116		117
Total	14894	19408	34302	15544	666

* Prior to 1946 2,600 children had received a re-inforcing injection. Prior to 1941 12,038 children were fully immunised.

Diphtheria Immunisation in relation to Child Population

Number of children at 31st December, 1954, who had completed a course of Immunisation *at any time before that date* (i.e., at any time since 1st January, 1940)

Age at 31.12.54 ... i.e. Born in year ...	Under 1 1954	1—4 1953—1950	5—9 1949—1945	10—14 1944—1940	Under 15 Total
Last complete course of injections (whether primary or booster) A. 1950—1954 ...	42	2752	7515	2697	13006
B. 1949 or earlier	—	—	1429	6447	7876
C. Estimated mid-year child population ...	1960	7840	19100		28900
Immunity Index 100 A/C	2.1	35.1	53.5		45.0

AMBULANCE SERVICE

Once again the work of the ambulance service has increased over that of the previous year. A total of 33,444 cases has been conveyed during the year as against 28,680 in 1953. The mileage has increased from 138,930 in 1953 to 153,279 in 1954. The following is a summary of the work carried out during the year:—

Calls	...	...	...	...	32,463
Journeys	...	...	...	...	9,152
Cases	...	...	...	...	33,444
Mileage	...	...	...	...	153,279

During 1954 two new sitting case ambulances were delivered, making a total fleet of 8 ambulances and four sitting case ambulances at the end of the year. One of the older ambulances has now been seconded for use as a civil defence ambulance and is used for instructional purposes with the civil defence volunteers.

Full-time ambulance staff now consists of one Ambulance Supervisor and 21 Ambulance Drivers, 4 of whom are women. All members of the staff have successfully passed the St. John examination, and refresher courses are arranged as necessary.

Every effort is made to reduce the demand on the ambulance service but a number of factors enter into the continued extension of this work. Our close proximity to the Birmingham hospitals means that many Walsall patients attend the out-patient departments of these hospitals and the daily transport of these cases makes considerable demands upon the service. Similarly, with the modern conception of the Health Service and the provision of adequate and prompt medical and surgical treatment at the local hospitals, a very large number of patients are treated daily at these hospitals, practically all of whom require some form of transport.

We do not deplore the extension of the work of the ambulance service for it is a necessary adjunct to the new Health Service which has come into being. With its help patients are treated promptly and regularly and we are certain the health of the people will benefit by the ready availability of modern treatment.

As we stated in last year's report the amount of money spent on the National Health Service, and the ambulance service which forms a part of it, is sound economically in that it reduces suffering and ill-health, thereby enabling people to take their normal part in everyday life and especially in the industrial life of the town.

Preventive medicine together with modern and prompt curative treatment will undoubtedly reduce the amount of ill-health in the community but until that desirable state of affairs is reached we must continue to provide our part of the National Health Service for the benefit of the people as a whole.

The following table shows the work carried out during the year:—

	CALLS	JOURNEYS												CASES						MILEAGE					
Month		Illness			Emergency	Other			Abortive and Service			Midwives, Nurses, Analgesia Apparatus etc.			Illness			Emergency	Other			Ambulances	Sitting Case Ambulances	Sitting Case Cars	
		AMB.	S. C. A.	S. C. C.	AMB.	S. C. A.	S. C. C.	AMB.	S. C. A.	S. C. C.	AMB.	S. C. A.	S. C. C.	AMB.	S. C. A.	S. C. C.	AMB.	S. C. A.	S. C. C.	AMB.	S. C. A.	S. C. C.			
Jan.	2728	347	142	—	100	55	25	—	19	7	—	—	—	2051	497	—	100	92	40	—	8630	3828	—		
Feb.	2634	274	101	—	106	67	42	—	14	9	—	—	—	1836	627	—	106	76	57	—	8473	3750	—		
March	2952	343	148	—	123	80	47	—	17	8	—	—	—	1983	740	—	123	117	63	—	9242	4190	—		
April	2422	270	154	—	113	57	28	—	12	9	—	—	—	1571	662	—	113	103	52	—	7450	4171	—		
May	2904	302	137	—	109	82	28	—	14	12	—	—	—	2001	679	—	109	114	67	—	9071	4167	—		
June	2694	249	131	—	115	74	26	—	16	14	—	—	—	1801	681	—	115	104	58	—	8490	4171	—		
July	2538	193	382	—	125	46	22	—	16	9	—	—	—	1775	593	—	125	72	69	—	6163	7254	—		
Aug.	2329	130	346	—	119	43	25	—	14	11	—	—	—	1587	554	—	119	74	79	—	4757	6130	—		
Sept.	2926	166	402	—	111	48	31	—	19	11	—	—	—	1521	1214	—	111	85	91	—	5862	7474	—		
Oct.	2945	187	393	—	118	53	35	—	26	9	—	—	—	1558	1178	—	122	98	110	—	6275	7362	—		
Nov.	2838	213	363	—	90	47	29	—	21	10	—	—	—	1668	1021	—	90	85	68	—	7000	6214	—		
Dec.	2553	200	298	—	109	42	21	—	17	8	—	—	—	1380	1012	—	109	77	61	—	6461	6694	—		
Total	32463	2874	2937	—	1338	694	359	—	205	117	—	—	—	20732	9458	—	1342	1097	815	—	87874	65405	—		

PREVENTION OF ILLNESS, CARE AND AFTER-CARE

Sick-room Appliances Service

As part of our care and after-care services the Council initiated a scheme for sick-room appliances to be made available, upon a certificate of a hospital, family doctor, district nurse or health visitor. Sick-room appliances are issued on loan, free of cost, and the service has proved to be most beneficial.

The appliances are housed at the Ambulance Station, the Ambulance Supervisor being responsible for the issue and return of all articles and for the care and maintenance of all mechanical appliances. The Ambulance Station is a very suitable place for the issue of such articles, as a twenty-four hour service is ensured.

During the year the following issues were made:—

Rubber Sheets	... 195	Commodes	... ... 3
Back Rests	... 233	Urinals	... ... 104
Feeding Cups	... 9	Sputum Cups	... ... 6
Crutches	... ... 18 prs.	Air Rings	... ... 212
Spinal Carriages	... 2	Wheel Chairs	... ... 59
Walking Sticks	... 19	Air Beds	... ... 2
Bed Cradles	... 31	Bedpans	... ... 270
Bed Tables	... 8	Water Bed	... ... 1
Bed Blocks	... 1 set	Dunlopillo Cushion	... ... 1
Bed Boards	... 1 set		

A small deposit is required for each article lent and this is refunded when the article is returned to the depot. In those cases where the patient is unable to arrange for the collection of the article, every endeavour is made to see that the delivery is made by the department's transport facilities.

The Sick-room Appliances Service is one of our most appreciated services. The availability, without charge, of these necessary articles for the sick room helps to alleviate the demand on hospital beds by making conditions more acceptable in the nursing of the patient at home. The service has been extended in each year of its operation and, from the large number of expressions of gratitude we receive from patients, we are assured of the genuine need of the service.

MILK ASSISTANCE SCHEME

The Health Committee, implementing their proposals for the care and after-care of tuberculous patients, instituted a scheme, in conjunction with the Tuberculosis After-Care Committee, for the supply of milk to tuberculous patients. Broadly the scheme provides for the free issue of one pint of milk per day where the total weekly income does not exceed an amount specified in the Council's scale. The scale was modelled upon that prepared by the Association of Municipal Corporations and the arrangements so far appear to be reasonably adequate.

During the year 24 patients, for varying periods, have been supplied with one pint of milk per day, free of charge. The total amount of milk supplied during the year was 553 gallons.

A grant of free milk is issued by the department upon the certificate of the Chest Physician. Close liaison is maintained between the Chest Physician who, of course, is now an officer of the Regional Hospital Board, and this department. The officers of the Chest Clinic and of this department confer regularly upon the needs of tuberculous patients. The Tuberculosis Health Visitor has an office at the Chest Clinic and works with the Chest Physician. Contact is thereby maintained between the tuberculous patient and other activities of the Health Department.

Milk is supplied through the patient's own Registered Milk Retailer so that the patient is not put to any trouble to obtain milk from a special source, a benefit appreciated by the patients.

PROVISION OF CLOTHING, BEDDING, ETC.

The Tuberculosis After-Care Committee is responsible for the scheme, on behalf of the Council, for after-care for tuberculous patients. Extra assistance for the tuberculous patient in the form of additional food, change of air, clothing, better home conditions, extra beds and bedding, and more suitable occupation are the Committee's main activities. The Committee has functioned for many years and has been of great help to a large number of patients. Mainly the funds are derived from voluntary sources but the Council also makes a monetary grant to assist the Committee in its work.

The following is a summary of the help provided during the year:—

Clothing was provided for 19 patients.

Footwear was provided for 4 patients.

Bedding was provided for 7 patients.

Monetary assistance was provided for 8 patients.

In addition financial assistance was provided for a patient's wife and children to have a fortnight's holiday, a Christmas gift of money was made to 179 patients, a wireless licence was bought for a patient and the travelling expenses were also provided for a relative to visit a patient at Papworth Rehabilitation Centre on several occasions.

Advice and assistance is always readily given to patients with their personal problems.

CONVALESCENT TREATMENT

Section 28 of the National Health Service Act, 1946, provides for the prevention of illness, care and after-care. Under these provisions the local authority may make arrangements to provide convalescent treatment for persons certified to require such treatment either by hospitals or by their medical practitioner. The convalescent treatment so provided shall not be given to persons needing medical care.

At the end of the year the following patients had received convalescent treatment:—

9 adults to Clevedon Convalescent Home, 8 for 2 weeks and 1 for 4 weeks.

3 adults to Rest Haven Convalescent Home, Exmouth, 2 for 2 weeks and 1 for 4 weeks.

2 adults to Llandudno Convalescent Home for Women, for 2 weeks.

8 children to St. Annes Convalescent Home, for 4 weeks.

The children's part of the scheme is run on similar lines to that operated by the Walsall Poor Children's Country Holiday Society and co-ordination of the two schemes is well established.

DOMESTIC HELP SERVICE

The Council have approved an establishment of 35 full-time domestic helps. For some years we have experienced considerable difficulty in obtaining the right type of person for employment in this service owing, principally, to the demand for female labour in industry. The demand for domestic helps has always exceeded the amount of help available and this position will continue so long as the industrial demand remains.

The greatest demand for domestic helps is in cases of sickness and more particularly the chronic cases, which require domestic help over a very long period. Acute cases of sickness are given priority over chronic cases and this, owing to our limited staff, means the withdrawal of help from the latter type of case at very frequent intervals. The situation thus created is to be deplored for some of the old folks for whom help is provided rely almost entirely upon the service to meet their daily needs. In the circumstances, even intermittent help is better than none at all, but we should like to be in a position to maintain the domestic help in a home once she has been placed there, so long as the need exists.

The care of the aged sick at home is still a great problem and every endeavour is made to arrange that at least intermittent help is given to those most in need. This help, with that provided by the National Assistance Board and the Home Help Scheme of the Walsall Civic Guild of Help offers considerable assistance to the aged, but even so, the help so provided merely touches the fringe of what is a very large and increasing problem.

The following are the statistics for the Domestic Help Service during the year:—

No. of Helps employed at 31st December, 1954 ...	39
No. of confinement cases at which help was supplied	93
No. of tuberculosis cases at which help was supplied	9
No. of chronic sick (including aged and infirm) cases at which help was supplied	135
No. of other cases at which help was supplied ...	41
Total hours worked at confinement cases ...	8,738
Total hours worked at tuberculosis cases ...	3,607
Total hours worked at other cases	48,445

BLIND PERSONS

The care of blind persons is a function of the Welfare Committee in Walsall and they work in close conjunction with the Walsall, Wednesbury and District Society for the Blind. There is a modern institution and workshops for the blind in the town and the facilities and care provided are of the best.

The following table shows the number of blind and partially sighted persons registered during the year:—

A.—Follow-up of Registered Blind and Partially Sighted Persons

(i) Number of cases registered during the year:— Recommendation	Cause of Disability			
	Cataract	Glaucoma	Retrolental Fibroplasia	Others
(a) No treatment ...	5	5	—	12
(b) Treatment (medical, surgical or optical)	13	7	—	8
(ii) Number of cases at (i) (b) above which on follow-up action have received treatment	6	7	—	5

B.—Ophthalmia Neonatorum

(i) Total number of cases notified during the year	1
(ii) Number of cases in which:—	
(a) Vision lost	—
(b) Vision impaired	—
(c) Treatment continuing at end of year	—

Of the 28 cases for whom treatment was recommended, 18 actually received treatment. Of the 10 remaining cases, 2 patients died, 5 refused treatment and 3 are remaining under observation. There were no cases of retrolental fibroplasia in premature infants.

Each of the 7 cases of glaucoma had received treatment at the end of the year.

5 patients refused treatment during the year, the Ophthalmic Surgeon reporting that they were elderly cases with a stubborn attitude of mind. Each refused to consider an operation at their age and would therefore prove unco-operative and be unsuitable for surgery.

At the end of the year 1954 there were 238 Walsall Residents on the register for the blind and 20 on the register for the partially sighted.

TUBERCULOSIS

The following report has been supplied by Dr. J. N. Macartney, a Chest Physician of the Birmingham Regional Hospital Board, who is in charge of the Walsall Chest Clinic which deals with cases of tuberculosis. Dr. Macartney is also responsible to the Walsall Council in all matters relating to environmental conditions of tuberculosis cases in the borough, a part of his salary being paid for this purpose. The report deals with this aspect of his work only:—

“The re-housing of tuberculous cases where necessary in the interest of health is recognised as a most valuable long term weapon in the fight against tuberculosis, and in Walsall we are fortunate in having a Local Authority who support this measure.

The Tuberculosis After-Care Committee, as usual, have continued their welfare work unobtrusively, efficiently and with great humanity. It is with deep regret that we record the death of Miss G. Cotterell who for many years worked at the Chest Clinic and also acted as Secretary to the Tuberculosis After-Care Committee. She was a friend to all in need of help and many patients have good cause to remember her with affection.

During the year, arrangements were made for the regular twice monthly visit of the Mass Radiography Unit to Walsall and it is felt that this measure may bring great benefit to the community by permitting large numbers of the public to be x-rayed. The evening x-ray session will permit persons at work to be x-rayed without wasting time away from their business.

Protective vaccination against tuberculosis was performed on 145 children who were exposed to the risk of contracting the disease.

The new Chest Clinic at the Walsall General (Sister Dora) Hospital was completed and opened towards the end of the year under review and is helping to deal more efficiently with the increased volume of work.

The number of new cases of tuberculosis discovered during the year was 125, a considerable decrease when compared with the 1953 figure of 205 cases.

The Death Rate for respiratory tuberculosis was 0.31 per 1,000 population for 1954. The corresponding figure for 1953 was 0.33. The 1954 figure for England and Wales however was 0.16 and our local rate is therefore nearly twice the national figure.

The measures concerned in the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of T.B. during the year have been strengthened but it is clear that a great deal still remains to be achieved."

MENTAL HEALTH

The administration of the Mental Health Service is carried out by the Health Committee, a special sub-committee having been formed to deal with cases of mental defectiveness, the Health Committee itself being responsible for the supervision of the mental illness service.

The following is a list of the staff employed in this service:—

GENERAL SUPERVISION	-	-	-	Medical Officer of Health.
APPROVED MEDICAL OFFICER	-			Deputy Medical Officer of
HANDICAPPED PUPILS AND SCHOOL				Health.
HEALTH SERVICE REGULATIONS,				
1945.				
DULY AUTHORISED OFFICER	-	-		1 male.
				1 part-time deputy
MENTAL WELFARE OFFICERS	-	-		1 female.
				1 assistant.
SUPERVISOR OCCUPATION CENTRE	-			1 female.
				1 assistant.

There is close co-operation with the Birmingham Regional Hospital Board and the Hospital Management Committee of St. Margaret's Hospital, the Mental Deficiency Hospital, and the advice and assistance of the officers of the Board and the Committee are freely available.

The Senior Mental Welfare Officer and her assistant undertake the ascertainment of mental defectives and their supervision when placed under Statutory Supervision. In addition arrangements have been made with the St. Margaret's Hospital Management Committee for the supervision of Walsall patients placed on licence in Walsall or in the vicinity. The periodic reports on certified patients required by the Visiting Justices are also prepared, after visitation, by these Officers.

The Senior Mental Welfare Officer has spoken at a number of meetings during the year of the work of a Mental Welfare Officer, thus giving the general public a more informed mind on the problems of mental deficiency.

The after-care of patients discharged from mental hospitals is carried out by the health visiting staff, a number of health visitors having attended a special course on such care. Arrangements were made for the health visitors to receive further training in this work through the Medical Superintendent of St. Matthew's Hospital, where most Walsall patients are treated.

The Walsall Mental Welfare Voluntary Association undertakes the supervision of a large number of voluntary patients who do not come within the purview of the statutory committee. The Mental Welfare Officer is the Secretary of the Association so that effective co-ordination in this matter is obtained.

Mental Illness

In my report of last year I drew attention to the increased number of cases of mental illness seeking voluntary admission to mental hospitals and am glad to say that this procedure has been maintained during the present year.

The following table shows the number of cases dealt with in 1954 under the Lunacy and Mental Treatment Acts, or otherwise, by the Duly Authorised Officers:—

No. of Health Service Certified patients removed to Saint Matthew's Hospital, Burntwood	...	...	...	63
No. of Health Service Voluntary patients admitted to Saint Matthew's Hospital, Burntwood	...	...	...	140
No. of Health Service cases, alleged to be of unsound mind, investigated	...	...	...	32
No. of patients referred for after-care	...	...	...	110
No. of after-care visits paid	...	...	...	375

In addition various other enquiries regarding patients have been dealt with.

The arrangement whereby the after-care visiting of patients discharged from mental hospitals is carried out by the Health Visiting staff has been continued and our experience of this method of "follow-up" indicates that the system adopted has been satisfactory. The volume of work to be done in this connection does not warrant the employment of a whole-time After-Care Officer and we find it to be better for the after-care work to be done by the Health Visiting staff rather than by the Duly Authorised Officers, it being borne in mind that the Duly Authorised Officers are the persons concerned in the patient's removal in the first instance.

The Health Visitor's reports indicate that they meet with considerable success, in certain types of cases, in their efforts to help and advise patients discharged from mental hospitals. There are, of course, the difficult patients who require a great deal of careful visiting before the necessary confidence between the visitor and patient has been established, and it is only right to point out that in a considerable number of cases no progress is made. This difficulty is to be expected with mental patients, but we must continue to offer our help and services even though success is not always achieved.

As we stated in our previous report, quite a number of patients have been assisted to resume their employment and others have been helped to obtain employment more suited to their capacity. The Health Visitors and the Authorised Officers carry out a considerable amount of work behind the scenes, the sole object being to convince the patient that he has a friend to whom he can turn in his trouble, a friend who can smooth out his difficulties and even his financial embarrassment and so assist him to regain his confidence and his place in the community.

Mental Deficiency

The work of ascertaining mental defectives under the Mental Deficiency Acts is very complete in Walsall. The Head Teachers of schools are responsible for reporting to the School Medical Officer any child whom they feel is retarded. The School Medical Officer then arranges for mental examination at the earliest possible date. As stated above these children are then cared for either by admittance to a mental deficiency hospital, a residential school for educationally subnormal children, or an occupation centre. A large number of cases is placed under voluntary supervision, and those placed under guardianship are under the supervision of the Guardianship Officer, who is also the Assistant Mental Welfare Officer.

Although an occupation centre has been provided no separate arrangements have been made for the provision of an industrial centre for adults. Home tuition is arranged where possible for children but no group training has been instituted. The question of the erection by the Council of an occupation centre with a larger capacity is still under consideration.

The continued shortage of Hospital accommodation for mental defectives causes much anxiety and it is difficult to convince parents who are in desperate need of such accommodation for their children that the fault does not lie with the Health Authority whose Mental Welfare Officers do all they can to alleviate their distress.

An impressive waiting list is not submitted to the Birmingham Regional Hospital Board but every case is considered individually according to the urgency it presents and the Board has always endeavoured to meet our requirements where possible.

Patients on Licence, etc.

The Council have made an arrangement with St. Margaret's Hospital, Great Barr Park, for the Council's Mental Welfare Officers to be responsible for reports on home conditions for leave of absence and for the supervision of patients on licence from hospital. These Officers also report on the home conditions of patients expected to be allowed on licence for trial and for discharge from Order. In addition reports are made to the Visitors for the County of Stafford, and periodic reports on patients on licence to the Medical Superintendent of St. Margaret's Hospital.

The Mental Welfare Officers continue to find employment for patients who are considered suitable for licence and for their supervision afterwards.

Mental Welfare Association

The Senior Mental Welfare Officer is Secretary of the Mental Welfare Association and this officer and the Assistant Mental Welfare Officer are responsible for the work undertaken by the Association. There is a large number of voluntary patients on the register and the Association carries out useful work in supervising cases which do not come within the purview of the Statutory Committee.

Occupation Centre

An Occupation Centre is provided by the Council and is conducted in church school premises rented for the purpose. The centre is for those children who cannot be educated within the normal educational system, the emphasis being on training.

The Junior children attend the occupation centre daily from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., the Senior Girls' Class meets on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. and the Senior Boys' Class meets Mondays and Wednesdays from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. The Senior Girls and Boys have 1/- a week pocket money, provided their attendance at classes is good.

Rug making, stool seating, embroidery, elementary handicraft, percussion band, eurythmics, country dancing, puppetry, games and speech training form part of the curriculum of this flourishing centre. A number of small children were admitted during the year and the kindergarten group is still growing in size.

On the 31st December there were 32 junior and 30 senior defectives in attendance.

General

More than usual attention has been paid to mental illness and defectiveness in Walsall for very many years. Walsall originally provided a colony for mental defectives, a residential special school for educationally subnormal pupils and an occupation centre. The work of the ascertainment of mental defectives is as effective as possible and the co-operation between the various committees of the Council concerned with children is very complete.

The provision of child guidance clinic facilities is at present under consideration and the Education Committee have established special remedial classes for handicapped children in ordinary schools.

Some of the nurses taking the course for health visitors in Birmingham have received instruction from the staff of the Mental Welfare Department and Occupation Centre during the year, and this practical instruction is, we are sure, of benefit to them as a part of their curriculum.

The following tables show in detail persons dealt with under the Mental Deficiency Acts:—

MENTAL DEFICIENCY ACTS, 1913—1938

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1. Particulars of cases reported during 1954

	During 1954			
	Under age 16		Aged 16 and over	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
(a) Cases at 31st December ascertained to be defectives "subject to be dealt with." Action taken on reports by —				
(i) Local Education Authorities on children				
(1) While at school or liable to attend school ..	7	6	—	—
(2) On leaving special schools ..	—	—	3	1
(3) On leaving ordinary schools ..	—	1	—	—
(ii) Police or by Courts ..	—	—	—	—
(iii) Other sources ..	—	—	2	4
(b) Cases reported but not regarded at 31st December as defectives "subject to be dealt with" on any ground ..	—	—	—	—
(c) Cases reported but not confirmed as defectives by 31st December and thus excluded from (a) or (b) ..	—	—	—	1
Total number of cases reported during the year ..	7	7	5	6

2. Disposal of cases

	During 1954				Total cases on Authority's registers as at 1.1.1955			
	Under age 16		Aged 16 and over		Under age 16		Aged 16 and over	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
(a) Of the cases ascertained to be defectives "subject to be dealt with" number								
(i) Placed under Statutory Supervision	7	7	5	4	22	24	70	82
(ii) Placed under Guardianship.	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
(iii) Taken to "Places of Safety"	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
(iv) Admitted to Hospitals	—	—	—	1	15	10	115	155
(b) Of the cases not ascertained to be defectives "subject to be dealt with" number								
(i) Placed under Voluntary Supervision	—	—	—	—	—	—	271	183
(ii) Action unnecessary,	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Total	7	7	5	6	38	34	458	420

Total cases on Authority's registers as at 1.1.55

		Under age 16			Aged 16 and over	
		M.	F.		M.	F.
(a)	Cases included in item 2(a) (i) to (iii) above in need of hospital care *					
(1)	In urgent need of hospital care :—					
	(i) "cot and chair," cases	1	—		—	—
	(ii) ambulant low grade cases	2	1		1	1
	(iii) medium grade cases	1	—		2	—
	(iv) high grade cases	—	—		—	—
(2)	Not in urgent need of hospital care :—					
	(i) "cot and chair" cases	—	—		—	—
	(ii) ambulant low grade cases	1	—		—	—
	(iii) medium grade cases	—	—		3	—
	(iv) high grade cases	—	—		—	—
Total		5	1		6	1

Number of defectives under Guardianship on 1st January 1955, who were dealt with under the provisions of Section 8 or 9

M. — F. —

* and reported accordingly to the hospital authority :—

	Under age 16		Aged 16 and over	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
	18	15	10	23
	—	—	—	—
	—	—	1	—
	18	15	11	23
	13	11	9	23
	—	—	—	—
	—	—	1	—
	13	11	10	23

3 (b) Of the cases included in items 2 (a) (i) and (ii) and 2 (b) (i) number considered suitable for :—

(i) occupation centre	..	..	..	..	..	..
(ii) industrial centre	..	..	..	..	..	..
(iii) home training	..	..	..	..	..	..

Total

..
----	----	----	----	----	----	----

(c) Of the cases included in item 3(b) number receiving training on 1.1.55 :—

(i) in occupation centre	..	..	..	..	..	..
(ii) in industrial centre	..	..	..	..	..	..
(iii) at home	..	..	..	..	..	..

Total

..
----	----	----	----	----	----	----

4. Number of Mental Defectives who were in Hospitals, under Community Care (including Voluntary Supervision) or in "Places of Safety" on 1st January, 1954, who have ceased to be under any of these forms of care during 1954.

	M.	F.	T.
(a) Ceased to be under care	4	—	4
(b) Died, removed from area, or lost sight of	1	4	5
Total	5	4	9

5. Of the total number of mental defectives under Supervision or Guardianship or no longer under care.

(a) Number who have given birth to children while unmarried during 1954	..	..	..	..	..	1 (Twins)
(b) Number who have married during 1954	..	..	..	..	..	Males Females
	..	..	..	..	1	—

COUNTY BOROUGH OF WALSALL

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Chief Sanitary Inspector

ON THE

Sanitary Administration of the Borough

for the year ended 31st December, 1954

TO THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS OF THE COUNTY
BOROUGH OF WALSALL.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my annual report for the year 1954, giving particulars of the sanitary administration of the Borough.

The report follows the precedent set in 1952 in that staff changes and pressure of other duties at the time of its preparation have meant that it has not been possible to prepare the report in the same detailed form as in other years. There is, however, sufficient to indicate the amount and varied nature of the work undertaken by Sanitary inspectors in their protective responsibilities with respect to the health of the public.

Every endeavour has been made during the year to maintain the services operated by the department but there are three major items which have dominated the year's work, namely, housing, meat and food inspection and atmospheric pollution. In addition, the department was from July charged with the responsibility of managing premises in use as a public slaughterhouse. It is clear that the department will be for some years heavily engaged on housing work and, with the pending legislation with regard to Food and Drugs administration and atmospheric pollution, consideration will have to be given to the establishment of the department.

The department has continued its health education activities and members of the staff have given lectures to various bodies on the work of the department; outstanding in this respect have been the lectures given by Mr. A. D. Kelley, Senior Meat Inspector, to the butchery employees of a large Walsall concern on the hygienic handling of meat and meat products.

I must again pay tribute to the continued support and co-operation of the Chairman and members of the Health Committee and the Medical Officer of Health, and my thanks are also due to Chief Officers and Heads of Departments for their help and co-operation.

To the members of my staff, who have again given unstinting service, I tender sincere thanks. I wish especially to mention the help and assistance I have received from Mr. E. Bayley, my Deputy, and the specialist Inspectors, Messrs. Woodward, Kelley, Penn and Monks, in the preparation of this report.

Yours obediently,

C. A. STANSBURY,

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

PART 1—STAFF

The year has seen the following changes in the staff of this section of the department:—

Mr. R. G. Goodhead, Meat Inspector, left the department on 15th May, 1954 to take up a similar appointment in his home town of Stoke-on-Trent.

Miss Anne Tipper resigned from her appointment as Shorthand-Typist on 21st May, having obtained a similar appointment with the Shropshire County Council.

Miss Pamela Gill commenced duties as Junior Clerk on 1st July, 1954.

On 6th September, 1954 Mr. Colin A. Stanley commenced duties as a Pupil Sanitary Inspector, thus completing the department's establishment of 3 Pupil Inspectors.

Mr. J. F. Marshall, a former member of the staff, who had held office as a Sanitary Inspector to the Health Unit of Red Deer, Alberta, Canada, returned to this country in the autumn and rejoined the staff as a Sanitary Inspector on 12th November, 1954.

PART 2—HOUSING

This section of the report embodies all housing work carried out under the Public Health Act and Housing Acts.

Repairs to Houses

Complaints received by the Department during the year numbered 3,146 and were 8 more than those received during the previous year. The repair works carried out have again been essentially of a "make do and mend" character.

The total number of visits made to premises was 20,811. Action taken under the Public Health Acts resulted in 548 houses receiving attention for essential repairs, while in a further 1,614 cases repair work in connection with water closets, drainage and abatement of other nuisances was carried out. Works of repair have thus been carried out to 2,162 houses during the year as a result of action by the department.

It was found necessary to institute legal proceedings with respect to non-abatement of nuisances in respect of 14 premises. Details of these proceedings will be found in Part 8 (page 84) of the report.

The Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, which came into operation on 30th August, amends in several important respects the provisions of the earlier Housing and Rent Restrictions Acts. The new Act authorises the owners of controlled houses, in certain circumstances, to increase the rents of their properties by reason of repairs carried out. The Act also amends the conditions relating to the issue of certificates of disrepair—that is, the certificates which authorise the withholding of a portion of the rent on the grounds that the house is not in a satisfactory state of repair. During the year 23 applications for certificates of disrepair were received; 21 of these were granted and 2 were refused; 3 of the certificates were later revoked because the owners had carried out repairs to the houses which brought them up to the prescribed standard.

Clearance, Individual Unfit and Closing Orders

The post-war slum clearance programme received an impetus during the year with the representation of a further 240 houses as unfit and suitable for Clearance Area action or demolition as individual unfit houses. The majority of these houses were included in 5 Clearance Areas, namely:—

The Alfred Street Clearance Area	...	...	72 houses
The Green Lane Clearance Area	...	...	97 „
The Flats Clearance Area	...	...	36 „
The Love Lane Clearance Area	...	...	12 „
The Woodall Street Clearance Area	...	...	8 „

These areas were dealt with by the Council by the making of the following orders:—

The Walsall (Alfred Street) Compulsory Purchase Order, 1954				
The Walsall (Green Lane No. 2) „	„	„	„	„
The Walsall (The Flats) „	„	„	„	„
The Walsall (Love Lane) „	„	„	„	„
The Walsall (Woodall Street) Clearance Order, 1954.				

Subsequent to the making of the orders enquiries were held and the table on page 58 sets out details of the enquiries.

The modifications referred to consisted in the case of the Green Lane (No. 2) Compulsory Purchase Order of the deletion from the Order of all Corporation owned properties and in The Flats Compulsory Purchase Order of the deletion of an area of grey land at the junction of The Flats and Field Road. Neither of the modifications materially affect the areas.

Individual demolition orders were made in respect of 15 houses and a further 35 unfit houses were voluntarily closed, the owners having given an undertaking not to re-let the houses for human habitation while they remained unfit.

During the current year 94 houses were closed and 89 were demolished. As a result of the closure of the 94 houses 324 persons were re-housed. At the end of the year, however, 235 unfit and officially condemned houses were still in occupation. This figure includes the properties comprised in the Walsall (Alfred Street) Compulsory Purchase Order but does not include the properties in the remaining four Orders as confirmation of these Orders was not received by the 31st December, 1954.

Housing Act, 1949 and Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954— Improvement Grants

The 1949 Housing Act, with a view to encouraging property owners to improve houses in their ownership, authorised the local authority to make a grant in approved cases of one-half the cost of the improvement effected. The 1954 Act simplified the procedure and enabled a grant to be made in respect of houses with a life of not less than 15 years, whereas the earlier Act prescribed a minimum life of 30 years. These amendments, together with publicity by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government, have resulted in a substantial increase in the number of applications for improvement grants in Walsall.

During 1953 only 7 eligible applications were received and of these 3 only were proceeded with. During 1954, however, 93 specific enquiries, involving detailed investigation, were received. Of this number 62 were cases which were suitable for grants and resulted in 31 applications being received and submitted to the Health Committee. All these applications were approved. They involved a total amount of £3,486 in grants. The remaining 31 applications were not proceeded with either because the proposed work was not suitable or the applicant decided to withdraw his application. Certain applications could not be considered because the work was commenced before the application had received official approval.

Provision of New Houses

During 1954 new houses were provided as follows:—

(a) By Walsall Corporation	...	...	681
(b) By private persons—			
(i) Permanent houses	...	...	98
(ii) New dwellings from conversion of existing properties	...	...	26

Progress in the Clearance of Unfit Properties

Condemned houses still in occupation at 1st January, 1954	...	...	...	...	207
Houses included in confirmed Clearance Orders or Compulsory Purchase Orders	...				72
Houses for which Demolition or Closing Orders were made or undertakings accepted during 1954	...	...	...		15
Houses for which owners gave voluntary undertakings not to re-let when present tenants re-housed	...	...	...	...	35
Condemned houses vacated during 1954	...				94
Condemned houses demolished during 1954					89
Condemned houses still occupied at 31st December, 1954	...	...	...	...	235

Progress under Housing Acts 1930 and 1936 at 31st December, 1954

Houses represented as unfit	...	...	3,513
Houses closed	...	...	3,023
Approximate number of persons displaced			12,959

Title of Order	Date of Representation	Date of Making of Order	Date of Enquiry	Ministry Inspector Conducting Enquiry	Date of Confirmation	Remarks
The Walsall (Alfred Street) Compulsory Purchase Order, 1954	18.1.54	8.3.54	31.8.54	S. G. Bulstrode, Esq., A.R.I.B.A.	6.10.54	Without Modification
The Walsall (Green Lane No. 2) Compulsory Purchase Order, 1954	14.4.54	26.7.54	2.11.54	S. D. Iddlesdon, Esq., A.R.I.B.A.	8.3.55	With Modification
The Walsall (Woodall Street) Clearance Order, 1954	14.4.54	26.7.54	2.11.54		22.2.55	Without Modification
The Walsall (The Flats) Compulsory Purchase Order, 1954	14.4.54	26.7.54	2.11.54		3.3.55	With Modification
The Walsall (Love Lane) Compulsory Purchase Order, 1954	14.4.54	26.7.54	2.11.54		25.2.55	Without Modification

PART 3—FOOD

Food administration continues to form a considerable and important part of Sanitary Inspectors' duties, as will be seen by the details of work which has been carried out, and which are set out in this report under the following headings:—

- (a) Slaughtering Facilities;
- (b) Inspection of Meat;
- (c) Unwholesome Food Condemned;
- (d) Milk;
- (e) Ice Cream;
- (f) Food Hygiene;
- (g) Sampling—Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

(a) SLAUGHTERING FACILITIES

The slaughtering of animals at the slaughterhouse in Shortacre Street continued under Ministry of Food control until 1st July, 1954. Government control of meat ended on 1st July and private trading in meat was resumed on 2nd July for the first time since 1940.

Prior to the prohibition in 1940 of private slaughtering there were 22 slaughterhouses in the Borough other than the Shortacre Street premises. In the interim many of these slaughterhouses had been turned to other use and only 5 applications for a renewal of the slaughterhouse licences from owners of private slaughterhouses were received. After an inspection of the premises and consideration of reports all 5 applications were refused on public health grounds and there have been no appeals. Slaughtering facilities are now only available at the Shortacre Street premises. The Ministry of Food continued the requisitioning of the Shortacre Street premises for a limited period and the Corporation administered the premises as a public slaughterhouse as from 2nd July, 1954.

(b) INSPECTION OF MEAT

General Review

There was again a substantial increase in the number of carcasses examined at the slaughterhouse during the year under review, 76,889 being examined compared with 68,379 in the previous year. There was a reduction in the number of cattle and cows slaughtered, the 1954

figure being 9,661 compared with 10,931 for 1953. There was again an appreciable decline in the number of calves slaughtered but killings of sheep showed a substantial increase. The number of pigs slaughtered again showed a great increase, 18,438 being killed compared with 10,762 for the previous year. These figures are given in detail at the commencement of Table 2.

It is interesting to note the number of animals slaughtered at Shortacre Street for the two separate periods in 1954, namely, from 1st January to 1st July under Ministry control and from 2nd July to 31st December, 1954 as a public slaughterhouse. These figures are set out herewith.

	Cattle including Cows		Calves	Sheep and Lambs		Pigs	Total expressed as Units
January 1st to July 1st, 1954 ...	5,426	...	2,558	...	22,686	...	9,614 ... 15,662
July 2nd to Dec. 31st, 1954	4,235	...	1,937	...	21,609	...	8,824 ... 13,612

Note.—1 Unit = 1 Cattle, or 2 Pigs or 3 Calves or 5 Sheep.

Meat inspection at the slaughterhouse was carried out on a full-time basis by Mr. A. D. Kelley, Mr. J. W. Fairless, Mr. G. Goodhead and Mr. J. F. Marshall, assisted from time to time by other qualified meat inspectors in the department. It is essential for public health reasons that meat be inspected at the time of slaughter and this principle is consistently observed in Walsall in order to maintain a high standard of inspection.

The total weight of diseased meat and offals condemned during 1954 is approximately one-third less than that condemned during the preceding year; nevertheless, condemnations during 1954 totalled more than 126 tons. There were variations in the incidence of different diseases found on post-mortem examination but these variations are not of sufficient magnitude to call for special comment. Further details of the incidence of disease among different animals appear in Tables 2 and 3 on page 63 but a detailed analysis of the condemnations has been omitted for reasons of economy.

In addition to inspecting the carcasses of animals slaughtered on the premises a number of dressed carcasses arrived at the slaughterhouse during the year for allocation to the trade and all these carcasses and organs were inspected before re-distribution, unless they were accompanied by a certificate of inspection.

Meat condemned because of Bruising

The amount of carcase meat condemned during the year by the meat inspectors because of bruising was 11,426 lbs. compared with 10,791 in 1953 and 4,889 in 1952.

Calves affected with Congenital Tuberculosis

Six cases of congenital tuberculosis in calves were recorded in 1954 compared with two during 1953. Information with regard to these cases was forwarded to the Animal Health Division of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

Cysticercus Bovis

There has been anxiety in recent years about the incidence of cysticercus bovis, a parasitic disease of cattle which may give rise to tapeworm infestation in man. During 1954 85 carcasses were found to be affected with this disease, compared with 106 in 1953. Special recommendations are laid down by the Ministry of Food as to the manner in which affected carcasses shall be treated. All diseased offals were condemned and the carcasses, after careful examination, were refrigerated for the recommended period of 21 days so as to ensure that the meat was safe for human consumption before being released. The following table gives details of the number of cases, together with the location of the parasites.

TABLE 1

Cysticercus Bovis in Cattle, 1954

Animals	Masseter muscle of head	Tongue	Hearts		(Skirts)	Carcase muscle	
			Muscle	Surface		Local	Generalised
Bullocks ..	32	1	7	9	2	—	—
Heifers ..	10	3	2	7	1	—	—
Cows ..	7	—	4	—	—	—	—
Bulls ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals ..	49	4	13	16	3	—	—

Swine Fever

During the year a number of pigs which had been in contact with known cases of swine fever were received at the slaughterhouse for immediate slaughter. The carcasses of those pigs which on examination showed post-mortem signs of swine fever were incinerated under police supervision in accordance with the Diseases of Animals Acts.

Meat and Food Inspection Statistics

The following table sets out the number of carcasses inspected, together with particulars of the carcasses or parts thereof condemned, and is in the form required by the Ministry:—

TABLE 2

1954

	Cattle excluding cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed and inspected	8,405	1,256	4,495	44,295	18,438
ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS :					
Whole carcasses condemned ..	1	11	235	124	34
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ..	3,921	1,210	496	7,159	5,518
Percentage of number in- spected affected	46·66%	97·13%	16·26%	16·44%	30·11%
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY :					
Whole carcasses condemned ..	18	42	12	—	13
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ..	654	706	11	—	733
Percentage of number in- spected affected with Tuber- culosis	7·99%	59·56%	0·51%	—	4·04%

(Total number of carcasses examined 76,889)

TABLE 3

Diseased Meat and Offals

During the year the following quantities of meat and offals were found to be diseased, unsound and unfit for human consumption:—

ALL DISEASES

EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS.

	Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.	Lbs.
Carcase Meat	24	6	—	10
Offals	56	8	—	5

TUBERCULOSIS ONLY.

Carcase Meat	24	3	—	4
Offals	22	1	—	6

TOTAL	126	18	—	25
-------	-----	----	---	----

It has been the practice in recent years to include in the report, tables showing the analysis of condemnations but, although tables have been prepared and are available in the office, they have been excluded on the grounds of economy.

(c) UNWHOLESOME FOOD CONDEMNED

The following Table gives details of the nature and weight of foodstuffs found to be unfit for human consumption during the year 1954. The bulk of the foodstuffs were surrendered to the Sanitary Inspectors at the time of inspection.

		Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.	Lbs.
Meat and Offal (at Slaughterhouse, Shortacre Street)	...	126	18	0	25
Meat (at Butchers' shops)	...	—	10	1	6
Tinned and other packed foods		4	0	3	18
Fowl	... ..	—	—	—	6
Fish	... ..	—	1	3	20
Bacon	... ..	—	1	1	9
Butter	... ..	—	—	—	21
Margarine	... ..	—	—	1	7
Cheese	... ..	—	1	—	17
Dripping	... ..	—	—	—	6
Cooking Fat	... ..	—	—	—	2
Semolina	... ..	—	1	—	—
Rice	... ..	—	—	—	11
Sultanas	... ..	—	—	—	5
Raisins	... ..	—	1	—	4
Cake	... ..	—	—	1	8
TOTAL		131	16	3	25

Every effort was made to salvage for purposes other than human consumption the food condemned as unfit, subject to satisfactory safeguards as to the method of disposal.

(d) MILK

General Review

Walsall is a "Specified Area" as defined in the Milk (Special Designations) (Specified Areas) Order, 1952. This means that all milk sold in the borough (other than tuberculin tested milk) must be heat treated by pasteurisation or sterilisation.

The dairy premises in Walsall have been periodically inspected during the year and have been found to be generally well maintained. There are four pasteurisation plants and four sterilisation plants and in the case of pasteurisation both the "High Temperature Short Time" and the "Holder" methods are practised.

The concern previously expressed with regard to low quality milk from certain producers has not been abated during this year. A total of 157 samples of milk were submitted for chemical analysis and 41 (26.7%) of these were not satisfactory in comparison with the presumptive standard. Of the total samples taken, 58 were from the milk produced at 2 farms and 36 of these samples were below presumptive standard; no offence was committed, however, since the milk sampled was "as it came from the cow." The herds involved were Tuberculin Tested herds, and while the animals concerned have to satisfy the tuberculin test, it is disquieting to realise that they may be yielding milk which is poor in chemical quality, i.e., deficient in milk fat or other solids. This low quality milk is usually produced at the end of the winter period when feeding stuffs are getting low and when cows are first turned out to grass, which may be of poor quality.

Milk (Special Designation) Regulations—Sampling

During the year 778 samples of designated milks were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory, Stafford, for statutory tests. The results of these tests are shown in Table 4 on page 68.

Of 532 samples subjected to the Methylene Blue Reduction Test (which is basically a cleanliness test) 38 were reported as failing to reach the required standard: of the 38 unsatisfactory samples 16 were in respect of Channel Islands Milk (T.T. 13: Pasteurised 3): 5 were Tuberculin Tested (Farm bottled): 6 were T.T. Pasteurised: 4 were Pasteurised and 7 were Pasteurised Schools Milk.

These figures of unsatisfactory samples include one sample of Pasteurised Channel Islands Milk, two of Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised) Milk, one of Pasteurised Milk and 7 of Pasteurised Schools Milk, all of which were processed locally (the 7 samples of Pasteurised Schools Milk were all from the same day's processing at one dairy); 6 samples were of raw T.T. Channel Islands Milk bottled at a local dairy and this milk is now pasteurised.

Of the 38 adverse reports, 21 were in respect of samples from areas outside Walsall and in each case the appropriate authority was informed.

The Phosphatase test, which is a check on the efficiency of pasteurisation, was carried out on 413 milk samples, all of which were satisfactory. All of the 180 samples of sterilised milk complied with the Turbidity Test.

Biological Testing

The sampling of raw milk produced at local farms was continued throughout the year for the purpose of biological tests. In all, 66 samples were taken and results of two samples indicated the presence of Tubercle Bacilli in the milk. The Animal Health Division of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries was notified of these results so concerned. In both cases notice was served under Section 20 of the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949, requiring the heat treatment of milk from the infected herds.

Licensing

The number of licences issued during the year under the Milk (Special Designations) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949 and the Milk (Special Designations) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949, was as follows:—

Plant Licences

For Milk Pasteurisation	...	...	...	...	4
For Milk Sterilisation	...	...	...	...	4

Dealers Licences

For the sale of Pasteurised Milk	...	...	...	92
For the sale of Sterilised Milk	...	...	...	241
For the sale of Tuberculin Tested Milk	...	...	...	43

(e) ICE CREAM

The Ice Cream Trade

During the year 32 ice-cream samples were taken under the Standard Orders and the average composition of these samples was 7.87% fat, 11.22% Milk Solids other-than-fat and 13.40% sucrose, compared respectively with the minimum legal standards of 5%, 7.5% and 10%. One sample showed a deficiency in Milk Solids other-than-fat and another showed a deficiency in fat.

Ice Cream (Heat Treatment, etc.) Regulations, 1947-1952

Regulations are in force requiring ice cream at certain stages in its manufacture to be subjected to a heat treatment process similar to the pasteurisation of milk and during the year periodic inspections have been made to ensure that manufacturers comply with these regulations. In Walsall six ice-cream manufacturers carry out the heat treatment procedure on their own premises, while three others make ice cream by reconstituting a "cold mix" powder which has already been heat treated during its manufacture.

Bacteriological Testing of Ice Cream

During the year under review, 316 samples of ice cream (of which 126 were from local manufacturers and 190 from other manufacturers) were submitted to the Methylene Blue Reduction Test. This is a provisional bacteriological test; samples falling in Grades 1 and 2 are regarded as satisfactory whereas samples which frequently attain only Grades 3 or 4 are regarded as unsatisfactory. The results of these tests appear in Table 5 on page 69.

A comparison of the grading test results during the past two years shows that samples taken during 1954 were rather better than those taken during the preceding year. The results of the tests are set out below: —

		Grades 1 & 2			Grades 3 & 4
1953	...	89.94%	...	...	10.06%
1954	...	93.04%	...	...	6.96%

TABLE 4

THE MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) REGULATIONS, 1949 to 1954
RESULTS OF BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF MILK, 1954

MILK DESIGNATION	SUMMARY OF RESULTS			PRESCRIBED TESTS				BIOLOGICAL TESTS			
	Satis- factory	Unsatis- factory	Total	Methylene blue		Phosphatase		Turbidity		Tubercle B	Br. Abortus
				Satis- factory	Unsatis- factory	Satis- factory	Unsatis- factory	Satis- factory	Unsatis- factory		
T.T. Channel Isles	39	13	52	39	13	—	—	—	—	—	—
T.T. (farm bottled)	62	5	67	62	5	—	—	—	—	—	—
Channel Isles											
(Pasteurised)	36	3	39	36	3	39	—	—	—	—	—
T.T. (Pasteurised)	119	6	125	119	6	125	—	—	—	—	—
Pasteurised (Schools											
$\frac{1}{3}$ pint bottles)	93	7	100	93	7	100	—	—	—	—	—
Pasteurised	145	4	149	145	4	149	—	—	—	—	—
Sterilised	180	—	180	—	—	—	—	180	—	—	—
T.T. Channel Isles (Bulk)	4	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—
T.T. (Bulk)	9	—	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	9	—
Accredited (Bulk)	20	—	20	—	—	—	—	—	—	20	—
Channel Isles (Bulk)	4	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—
Undesignated (Bulk)	27	2	29	—	—	—	—	—	—	27	—
TOTALS	738	40	778	494	38	413	—	180	—	64	66

TABLE 5

RESULTS OF ICE CREAM SAMPLES, 1954
(METHYLENE BLUE REDUCTION TEST)

Classification	No. of samples	Percentage of total samples	Number in each Grade				Percentage in each Grade			
			Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4
Local Manufacture (Heat Treated) ..	98	31.0%	78	13	3	4	79.59%	13.27%	3.06%	4.08%
Local Manufacture (Cold Mix) ..	28	8.9%	28	—	—	—	100.00%	—	—	—
Local Manufacture (Total) ..	126	39.9%	106	13	3	4	84.13%	10.32%	2.38%	3.17%
Other Manufacture ..	190	60.1%	156	19	8	7	82.10%	10.00%	4.22%	3.68%
All Samples (Total) ..	316	100.0%	262	32	11	11	82.91%	10.13%	3.48%	3.48%

(f) FOOD HYGIENE

From time to time during the year visits have been paid to various food premises in Walsall in order to investigate the conditions under which foodstuffs were manufactured, prepared, stored or sold. Where unsatisfactory conditions or unhygienic practices have been found, pressure has been brought to bear upon the traders concerned to rectify matters. While it has been necessary to caution a number of traders, it has generally been possible to secure the abatement of unsatisfactory conditions without recourse to legal action. The conditions under which food is sold in the town's open market remain as before.

Because of heavy pressure of work it has not been practicable during 1954 to carry out systematically the recommendations set out in a report to the Health Committee in 1952 on sanitary conditions in public houses in Walsall. Nevertheless it has been possible to secure improvements in certain premises where more serious deficiencies existed.

(g) SAMPLING—FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938

Mr. F. D. G. Chalmers, M.A., B.Sc., F.R.I.C. (of the firm of Messrs. Bostock, Hill and Rigby, Birmingham) held the appointment of Public Analyst. Samples taken under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, were submitted to him for analysis.

Of the 340 samples submitted under the Act, 143 were formal and 197 informal; of these, 24 (equivalent to 7.05%) were unsatisfactory. Of the samples taken, 157 were milk, of which 15 (equivalent to 9.55%) were unsatisfactory.

Detailed list of samples

Milk 157, Ice Cream 32, Butter 12, Mild Ale 12, Tinned Cream 9, Candied Peel 8, Oranges 7, Pork Sausage 7, Fruit Drinks 6, Beef Suet 5, Pickled Onions 5, White Pepper 5, Ground Almonds 5, Jelly 4, Vinegar 4, Ice Lollies 3, Glace Cherries 3, Bicarbonate of Soda 2, Liquorice and Menthol Pellets 2, Tincture of Iodine 2, Formamint Tablets 2, Condensed Milk 2, Honey 2, Christmas Pudding 2, Fruit Salad 2, Raisins 2, Prunes 2, Mincemeat 2, and 1 each of the following: Jelly Crystals, Pineapple Slices, Friars Balsam, Sodamint Tablets, Aspirins, Codeine Tablets, Sulphur Tablets, Cheese Spread, Ground Nutmeg, Cake, Minced Chicken, Pie Filling, Sauce, Cocktail Sausages, Dressed Crab, Cake Mixture, Dried Parsley, Dried Thyme, Dried Sage, Parmesan Cheese, Olive Oil, Cream substitute, Currants, Lollie Liquid, Salmon Spread, Self Raising Flour, Custard Powder, Marzipan, Potted Salmon, Mixed Fruit, Vanilla Essence, Cochineal Mixture, Sweet Spread, Vanilla.

DETAILS OF UNSATISFACTORY SAMPLES

No. of Sample	Article	Whether formal, informal or private	Nature of Adulteration	Observations
40	Milk	Informal	Deficient of 13% fat.	All these samples were in connection with a milk supply from one farm. Reported to Health Committee and steps taken to improve the quality of the milk.
44	Do.	Do.	Deficient of 8% fat.	
45	Do.	Do.	Deficient of 3% fat.	
47	Do.	Do.	Deficient of 6% fat.	
48	Do.	Do.	Deficient of 3% fat.	
50	Do.	Do.	Deficient of 3% fat.	
52	Do.	Do.	Deficient of 1.5% fat.	
53	Do.	Do.	Deficient of 3% fat.	
55	Do.	Do.	Deficient of 11.5% fat.	
58	Do.	Do.	Deficient of 3% fat.	
60	Do.	Do.	Deficient of 1.5% fat.	
61	Do.	Do.	Deficient of 10% fat.	
92	Oranges	Do.	Preservative giving reaction of Thiourea.	Reported to Ministry of Food.
108	Milk	Formal	Deficient of 5% fat.	No action taken. "Appeal to cow" samples taken subsequently.
142	Do.	Do.	Deficient of 13% fat.	
164	Ice Cream	Informal	Deficient of 10% milk solids.	Producer warned verbally.
100	Pork Sausages	Formal	Deficient of 6% meat.	Reported to Health Committee and warning letter sent by Town Clerk.
103	Do.	Do.	Deficient of 6.9% meat.	
183	Tincture of Iodine	Informal	Not British Pharmaceutical quality.	Reported to Health Committee.
225	Do.	Formal	Contained an excess of 7.4% Potassium Iodide.	Taken in connection with sample No. 183. Letter sent by Town Clerk to vendors. Reported to Health Committee.
205	Ice Cream	Informal	Deficient of 16% fat.	
185	Formamint Tablets	Do.	Not British Pharmaceutical quality.	Further sample taken was genuine. Ditto.
280	Milk (Channel Islands)	Formal	Deficient of 10% fat.	Ditto.
323	Shredded Beef Suet	Informal	Deficient of 6% fat.	Representations made to manufacturers.

PART 4—WATER

The water supply for the borough is from the mains of the South Staffordshire Waterworks Co. and was satisfactory during the year both in quantity and quality. In only a few houses is mains water not available. Most of these houses are in outlying districts and many of them are likely to be the subject of closure or demolition action under the Housing Act, 1936.

The following figures, which are approximate estimates only, indicate the proportion of houses with separate and shared water supplies:—

	Houses	Population	Percentage
(a) Direct to houses ...	32,966	112,142	97.6
(b) Houses sharing stand-pipes or common taps	811	2,758	2.4

A high percentage of the houses sharing stand-pipes or common taps are either already condemned or likely to be condemned within the next five years.

During the year 29 samples of drinking water were submitted for bacteriological examination and 1 for chemical analysis. In the case of water from the South Staffordshire Waterworks Company's supplies, the samples taken proved satisfactory both bacteriologically and chemically. One food premises in the town relies on water from a 330 feet bore and 16 samples were taken from this particular source; all were satisfactory. The remaining 12 samples, which were from wells of private houses, were all unsatisfactory. Another shallow well has gone out of use during the year, the house it supplied having been demolished.

Swimming Baths

Frequent visits were made to the public baths in Walsall during the year, when the water was tested for chlorine content and, in addition, 62 samples of water were taken for bacteriological examination. These latter samples were distributed among the 3 indoor and 2 open-air swimming baths as follows:—

Tower Street 1st Class Swimming Bath	...	...	21
Tower Street 2nd Class Swimming Bath	...	...	10
Tower Street Brine Swimming Bath (Winter Season)			11
Bloxwich Swimming Bath	...	...	10
Arboretum Open-Air Swimming Bath	...	...	5
Reedswood Open-Air Swimming Bath	...	...	5
			—
			62
			—

Satisfactory reports were received in all cases except one, which was suspicious but not unsatisfactory. All samples are judged by the same standard as that for drinking water.

Children's Lido

10 samples of the water of the Lido were sent for bacteriological examination, of this number 2 were satisfactory while the remaining 8 varied from "suspicious" to "unsatisfactory." Shallowness of the water and the excessive churning it receives when in use, render it difficult to maintain an efficient system of chlorination. Consideration is being given to methods of improving the efficiency of this treatment.

PART 5—ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

General Policy

The Department continues its efforts to lessen atmospheric pollution by endeavouring to secure the abatement or reduction of smoke, fume and similar nuisances, and by trying to prevent future nuisances from developing in industries about to be established in the town. The scale of the problem is such that attention has largely to be concentrated on those premises which, because of the nature and persistence of the nuisance, give rise to greatest complaint, although many visits have been paid to small manufacturing concerns.

The co-operation of the Borough Surveyor, by allowing examination of plans for new factories and extensions, has again been of inestimable value in enabling this department to make certain recommendations to the firms concerned with a view to preventing or minimising nuisance. During the year 91 plans were inspected; 30 of these appeared to involve some risk of smoke nuisance, in 14 cases there appeared to be danger of fume nuisance and in another 6 cases a risk of dust emission.

Improvements in Industrial Fuel Burning Plant

During 1954 three boilers have been equipped with mechanical stokers and two hand-fired horizontal boilers have been fitted with the smoke eliminator fire-door devised by the Fuel Research Station. At two factories conversion to oil firing and the installation of electric annealing ovens has greatly reduced smoke emission, while another factory has installed 2 new gas-fired furnaces.

Dust and Fume Control

Notwithstanding the fact that these nuisances are technically difficult to deal with, progress has been made by the enlargement and modernisation of filter plant at two large factories and improvements have been effected at several small works by the installation of cyclones. Factories liable to cause dust or fumes have to be subjected to frequent observation because of the risk of nuisance recurring from breakdown of plant.

Training in Boilerhouse Practice

In the autumn of this year a course of instruction in boilerhouse practice was held at the local Technical College with the co-operation of the National Industrial Fuel Efficiency Service, but in spite of intensive canvassing there were no candidates from local firms.

Measurement of Air Pollution

The chemist's reports on the analyses of the contents of Deposit Gauges and Lead Peroxide Instruments are set out in tabular form on pages 75 and 76 and in graphical form on pages 77 and 78. More than 200 Authorities throughout the country now operate similar instruments and the information obtained enables the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research to form a reliable estimate of the degree and extent of air pollution throughout the country.

The Deposit Gauges, of which there are six in Walsall, indicate the amount of soot, dust and similar matters suspended in the air of the town, while the 9 Lead Peroxide Instruments, which are especially sensitive to sulphur gases, are useful for assessing the damaging effects of such gases on plant life and property. In addition, pollution by zinc oxide is calculated from 3 of the deposit gauges sited in a part of the town where pollution of this type is prone to occur.

The 1954 figures for deposited matters and sulphur dioxide from the gauges and instruments in use in Walsall are generally higher than those of 1953. Rainfall during the year was considerably higher than in the preceding year and this factor, together with the fact that both the industrial and domestic consumer are, of necessity, burning a lower grade fuel, may largely account for the increase.

I am indebted to the Sewage Works Manager and his staff for carrying out the chemical analyses in connection with atmospheric pollution work and to Mr. J. C. W. Day (F.R.Met.Soc.) for meteorological information.

Smoke from Domestic Chimneys

The part played by the domestic coal fire in polluting the air often tends to be overlooked. It is therefore worth while studying the seasonal incidence graphs which appear on pages 77 and 78.

During the summer months householders normally burn much less coal than they do in winter, whereas there is little difference between the summer and winter fuel consumption of industrial undertakings. The difference in the heights of the columns for the months April to September and the winter months October to March may therefore almost certainly be attributed to pollution from the domestic coal fire. This difference is more pronounced in the graph showing sulphur dioxide activity.

TABLE 6

Deposit Gauges—Records of Deposits, 1954

Deposits in tons per Square Mile per Month

Month	Bloxwich (Station St.)	North (Transport Depot)	Central (Hatherton Road)	East (Sutton Rd.)	South (Brockhurst)	South-West (Alumwell School)
Jan.	14.54	17.44	21.17	10.18	15.15	—
Feb.	27.36	23.29	34.48	17.30	15.23	19.20
March	15.44	—	19.06	20.19	12.16	16.61
April	11.97	13.08	15.42	5.32	8.25	9.88
May	17.11	27.69	30.13	9.78	17.98	16.40
June	11.93	20.28	15.08	—	9.08	9.40
July	13.74	18.41	23.16	8.23	11.99	11.58
Aug.	20.65	17.25	28.50	15.34	10.32	13.90
Sept.	18.98	23.99	21.21	17.76	11.78	12.17
Oct.	24.08	37.79	22.82	11.13	14.23	16.11
Nov.	30.43	39.30	26.18	15.82	17.46	19.78
Dec.	21.66	21.35	19.20	9.08	10.49	13.34
TOTALS	227.89	259.87	276.41	140.13	154.12	158.37

MONTHLY AVERAGES:

1954 ...	18.99	23.62*	23.03	12.74*	12.84	14.39*
1953 ...	15.44	16.15	18.76*	8.94	16.05*	—
1952 ...	15.36*	18.52*	21.33	10.28	17.54*	—
1951 ...	20.61	21.96	24.36	10.37	20.85	—
1950 ...	16.55*	15.89*	22.34	9.68	15.37*	—
1949 ...	15.18	18.42	20.41	8.30	16.77	—
1948 ...	16.95	19.69	21.59	8.21	16.80	—
1947 ...	18.19	19.94	23.27	10.81	13.22	—

* Averages for 11 months only.

1954 Average for whole town 17.60 tons/sq. mile/month.

TABLE 7

Lead Peroxide Gauges—Record of Sulphur Pollution, 1954

Weight of Sulphur Trioxide collected—Expressed in milligrammes of SO_3 per 100 square centimetres per day.

Month	Blox- wich	North (Trans- port)	Central (Hather- ton Rd.)	East (Sutton Road)	South (Brock- hurst)	Blox- wich Road	Manor Hospital	Dartmouth Avenue	Trees Road
Jan.	—	3.45	4.34	1.51	3.17	3.11	3.68	2.12	2.33
Feb.	3.64	3.89	4.00	1.48	3.36	2.99	3.63	2.06	2.07
Mar.	2.76	2.37	3.29	1.01	2.20	2.09	2.95	1.60	1.43
April	2.10	2.03	3.01	3.49	3.48	1.79	2.26	1.51	1.39
May	2.24	1.82	3.84	0.70	1.63	1.81	1.99	1.00	1.26
June	1.97	1.64	2.20	0.53	1.62	1.34	1.44	1.10	0.77
July	1.43	2.68	2.07	0.55	1.72	1.54	1.03	1.08	0.89
Aug.	1.46	1.75	2.21	0.51	1.29	1.45	1.14	1.09	0.91
Sept.	2.46	2.67	2.50	0.47	1.76	1.94	1.25	1.12	1.04
Oct.	3.13	4.02	3.17	0.73	2.39	2.53	1.95	1.94	1.53
Nov.	4.15	5.67	3.96	1.53	3.25	3.33	3.40	2.39	2.49
Dec.	3.55	4.19	3.89	1.56	3.18	3.07	2.62	2.52	2.15
	28.89	36.17	38.48	14.07	29.05	26.99	27.34	19.53	18.26

MONTHLY AVERAGES (Crude):

1954	*2.63	3.01	3.21	1.17	2.42	2.25	2.28	1.63	1.52
1953	1.63	**1.55	1.89	0.89	1.42	1.43	1.38	1.11	1.25
1952	1.63	1.72	2.06	*0.78	1.79	1.57	1.59	*1.29	1.31
1951	2.40	2.51	2.30	*0.80	2.36	2.07	1.74	1.81	**1.42
1950	2.18	2.43	2.66	0.94	2.39	1.91	2.05	1.48	1.37
1949	2.14	2.49	2.69	1.02	2.53	2.00	2.00	**1.66	**1.41
1948	2.11	2.74	2.64	1.00	2.57	1.65	1.82	—	—

* Average for 11 months.

** Average for 10 months.

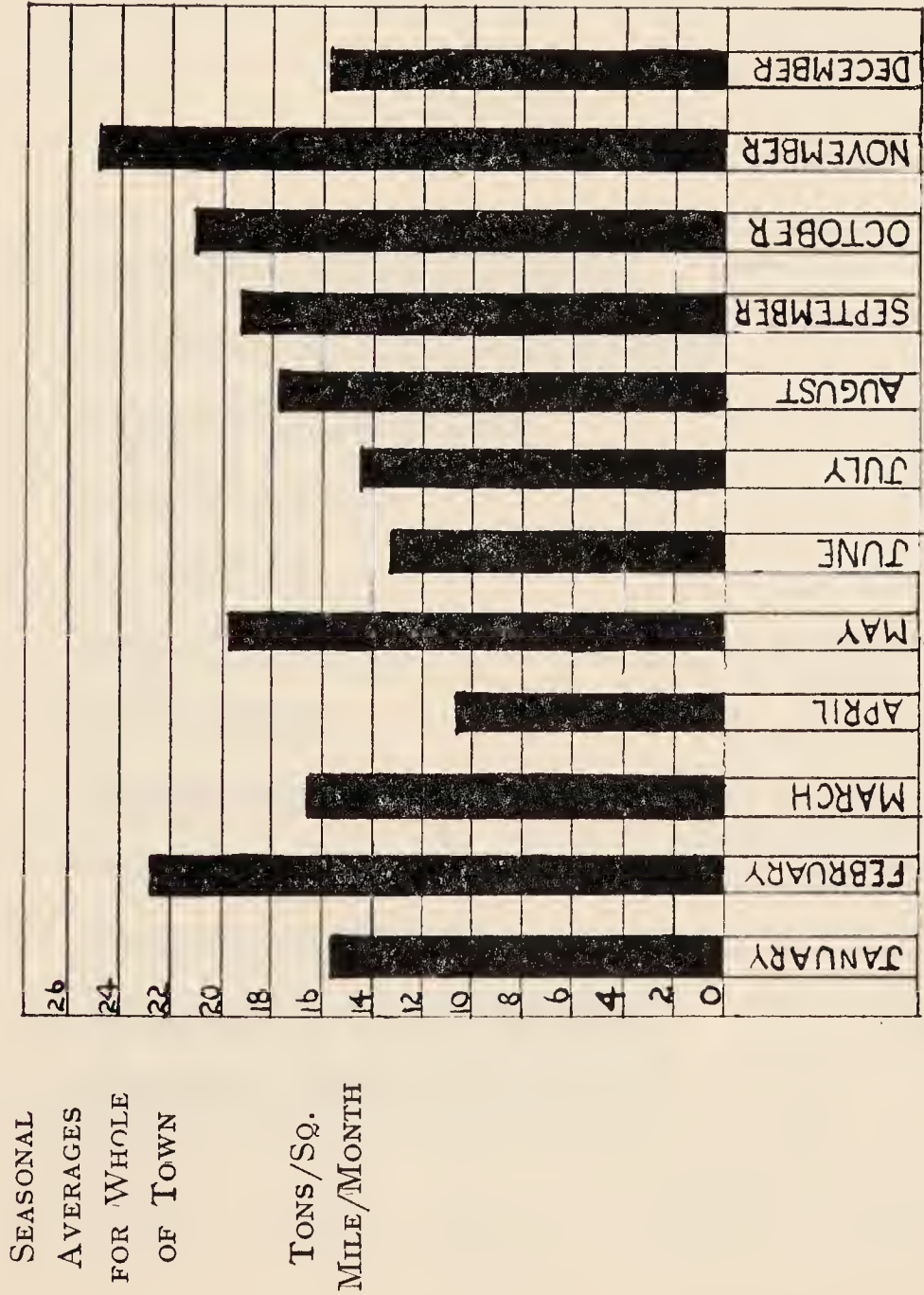
1954 Average for whole town—2.23 M.Grs./100 sq. cms./day.

ANNUAL RAINFALL

1954	...	...	...	36.23 inches
1953	...	...	...	24.22 inches
1952	...	...	...	28.64 inches
1951	...	...	...	34.28 inches
1950	...	...	...	27.50 inches
1949	...	...	...	23.74 inches
1948	...	...	...	29.78 inches
1947	...	...	...	26.74 inches

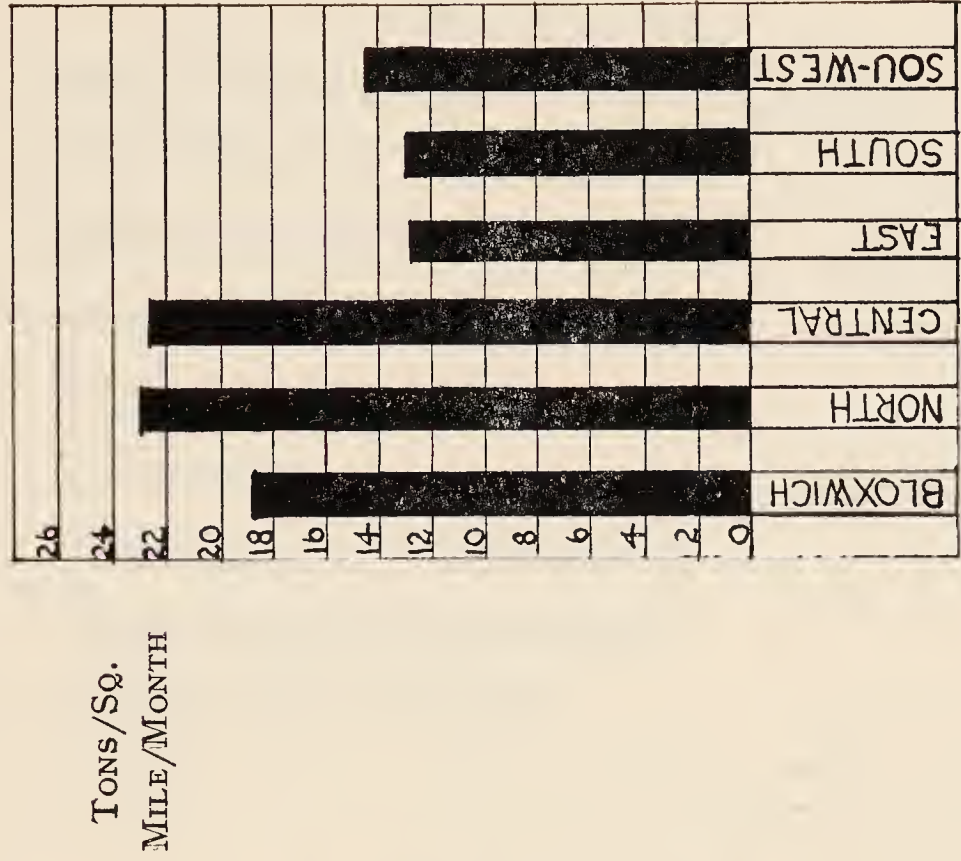
DEPOSIT GAUGES 1954

SEASONAL INCIDENCE (AVERAGES)



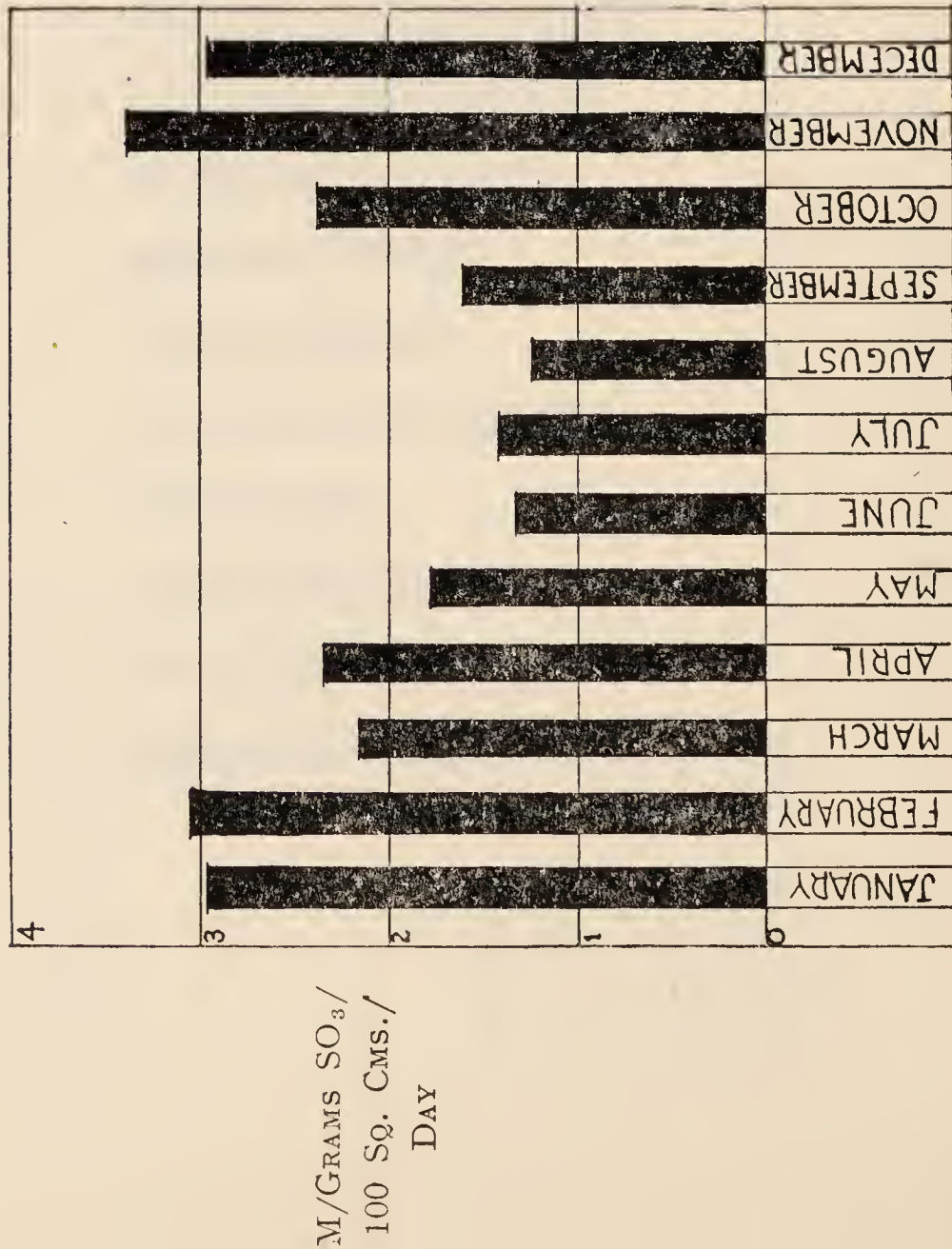
DEPOSIT GAUGES 1954

DISTRICT INCIDENCE (AVERAGES)



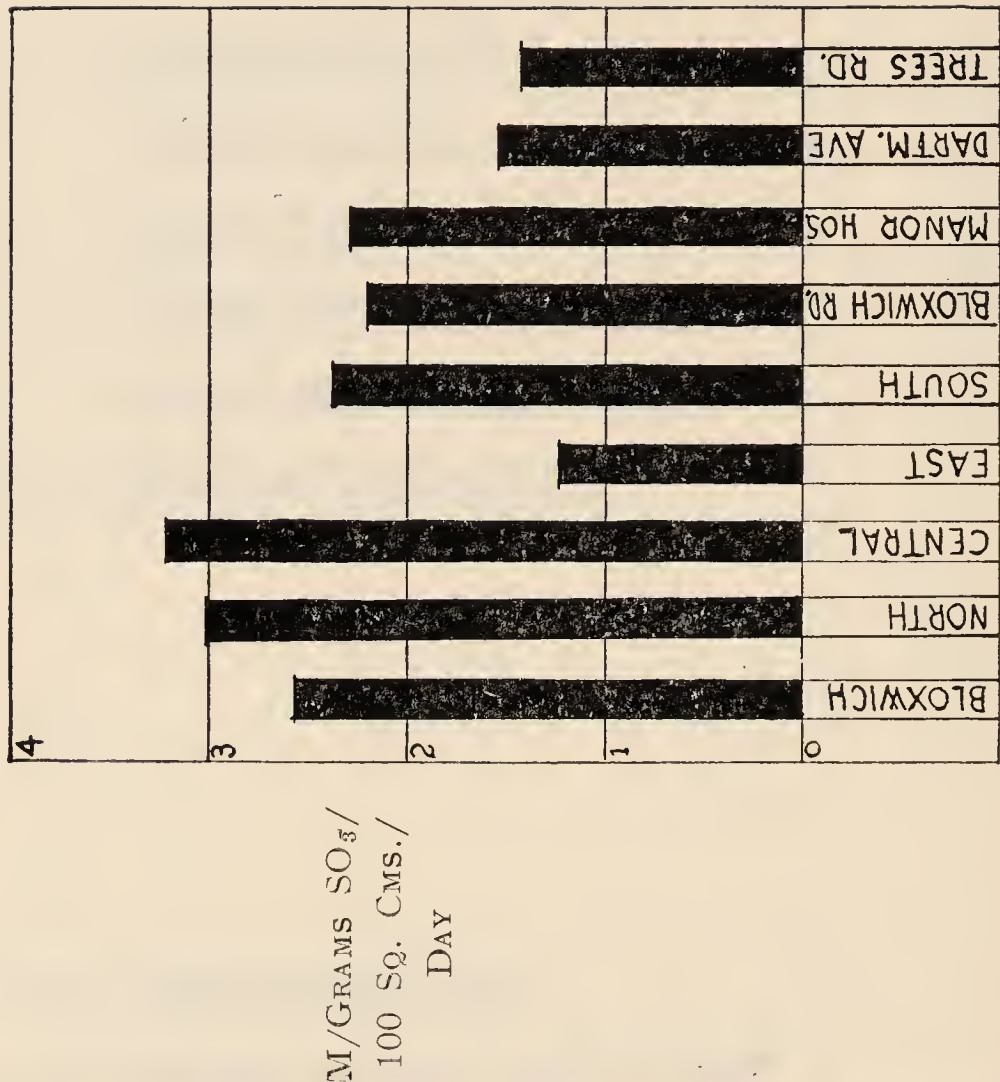
LEAD PEROXIDE GAUGES 1954
(SULPHUR DIOXIDE)

SEASONAL INCIDENCE (AVERAGES)



LEAD PEROXIDE GAUGES 1954
(SULPHUR DIOXIDE)

DISTRICT INCIDENCE
(CRUDE AVERAGES)



PART 6—DISINFESTATION

Re-housing Operations and Hydrogen Cyanide Fumigation

During the year under review the house and household effects of each prospective Council house tenant were inspected. Where the inspection revealed the presence of vermin or timber boring beetles, the removal work was undertaken by this department. During 1954 the furniture and effects of 155 families were disinfested by hydrogen cyanide gas because of the presence of bed bugs or timber beetles. This work was carried out on behalf of the Housing Department.

There was an appreciable increase in the incidence of infestation by wood boring beetles, 102 houses having been found to be affected compared with 75 in the previous year.

Disinfection

The Steam Disinfector at Bloxwich Depot was in regular operation throughout the year for disinfection of bedding, clothing and other articles which had been exposed to infection. A total of 2,743 infected articles were treated, including a proportion dealt with on behalf of neighbouring local authorities who do not possess disinfecting apparatus.

Rodent Control

During the year 2,318 visits were made to premises in connection with the administration of the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949; 367 premises, of which 75 were business premises, were found to be infested with rats and mice.

The sewers of the town are systematically treated twice a year in order to reduce the rat population. During the past year 152 and 229 "takes" of poison were recorded in this bi-annual treatment. The Council's sewage works, refuse tips, the Arboretum and the brook course in the district were also treated. In 17 cases the prime causes of rat infestation were found to be defects in drainage systems: notices were therefore served on the owners of the premises requiring them to remedy the drainage defects.

From the number of complaints received during the year it is clear that the members of the public are now more conscious of the seriousness of the rat problem and make full use of the department's assistance to control this menace.

Income

While much of the work of disinfestation and rodent control is carried out without fee, charges are made in certain cases. During the past year £468 was received for such work, compared with £477 for 1953. Of the £468, charges for general disinfestation work accounted for £322, the balance of £146 being from charges for rodent control work.

PART 7—GENERAL

Factories, Shops and Offices

There are now 851 factories on the departmental register compared with 948 last year.

Complaints of infringements of those sections of the Factories Act, 1937, which are enforceable by the Local Authority (including infringements of the Sanitary Accommodation Regulations, 1938) were received from H.M. Inspector of Factories in respect of 34 premises. These complaints were investigated and appropriate action taken. Details of the types of factories inspected and of the action taken are set out in Table 8 on pages 82 and 83.

Considerable work was again carried out in the examination of plans of extensions, alterations and improvements to factories, shops and offices.

Fertilisers and Feeding Stuffs Act, 1926

The appointment of Agricultural Analyst under this Act was held by Mr. F. G. D. Chalmers. Seven samples of pre-packed fertiliser were submitted to him for examination. Two samples were reported as unsatisfactory, and representations were made to the vendors and the manufacturers.

Supply of Dustbins

A different procedure for securing the provision of dustbins to dwelling-houses has been in operation since 1st April this year. Prior to this date the practice of the department was to serve notices under Section 75(1) of the Public Health Act, 1936, calling on owners or occupiers to supply dustbins to their houses. The Council decided by special resolution that, as from 1st April, 1954, they would themselves provide dustbins to dwelling-houses and levy an annual charge of 5s. per bin, the charge to be recovered as part of the General Rate of the premises. It was also decided to give the owners or occupiers concerned 14 days grace in which to provide dustbins themselves.

Since the inception of the scheme 206 dustbins have been supplied by the Council compared with 40 supplied by owners or occupiers. It will, of course, be realised that the 40 dustbins refers only to those cases where action has had to be taken by the department; many dustbins are obviously supplied by owners or occupiers without the knowledge of the department.

Cinemas

During the year visits were made to all cinemas in the town, mainly for the purpose of ensuring that the premises generally, and the sanitary accommodation in particular, were maintained in a reasonably hygienic condition.

Rag Flock and Other Filling Materials Act, 1951

The main aim of this Act is to ensure that filling materials used in upholstered and similar articles are clean. The Act requires premises on which filling materials are used in the manufacture of bedding, toys and baby carriages, etc. to be registered and premises on which rag flock is manufactured or stored for certain purposes to be annually licensed.

There are no premises in Walsall where rag flock is made or is stored for distribution to registered premises, but there are 3 factories at which rag flock is used for various trade purposes, and these premises are visited from time to time.

The Prescribed Analyst under this Act is Mr. L. W. Ogden, of Slumberland (Research) Ltd., Stockport, and 4 samples of filling materials were submitted to him for analysis, viz., 1 each of Hessian Backed Coir Fibre, Rag Flock (50% Animal Fibre) Kapok Down, Jute Wadding (unwashed).

The kapok was reported as having a label which was misleading, as the sample consisted of almost entirely rayon and appeared to contain no kapok at all. Representations were made to the suppliers.

The jute wadding (unwashed) was reported as unsatisfactory. Representations were made to the suppliers, and the firm in Walsall using this material now use washed jute wadding, the unwashed wadding being unsuitable for the purpose for which it had been previously used.

Pet Animals Act, 1951

This Act precludes a person from occupying a pet shop unless he holds a licence granted by the local authority. The Act applies to all premises (including private houses) where the business of selling animals as pets is carried on.

During the year 6 applications for licences were received, and all were granted, subject to the observance of certain conditions.

TABLE 8

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 AND 1938

Prescribed particulars on the administration of the Factories Act, 1937.

1.—**INSPECTIONS** for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors)

Premises (1)	M/c line No. (2)	Number on Register (3)	Number of			M/c line No. (7)
			Inspections (4)	Written notices (5)	Occupiers prosecuted (6)	
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ..	1	71	12	2	—	1
(ii) Factories not included in (i) to which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	2	778	325	31	—	2
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	3	2	—	—	—	3
TOTAL		851	337	33	—	

2.—CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

Particulars (1)	M/c line No. (2)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (7)	M/c line No. (8)
		Found (3)	Remedied (4)	To H.M. Inspector (5)	Referred By H.M. Inspector (6)		
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	4	24	15	—	11	—	4
Overcrowding (S.2)	5	—	—	—	—	—	5
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	6	—	—	—	—	—	6
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	7	2	—	—	2	—	7
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	8	—	—	—	—	—	8
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)	9	3	—	—	3	—	9
(a) insufficient							
(b) Unsuitable or defective	10	25	20	—	15	—	10
(c) Not separate for sexes	11	1	1	—	1	—	11
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	12	30	25	—	21	—	12
TOTAL	60	85	61	—	53	—	60

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OUTWORKERS

In accordance with Section 110, reports were received of a total number of 174 Outworkers, 129 engaged in making wearing apparel, 4 engaged in connection with brush making and 41 engaged in connection with the making of Christmas Cake Decorations. It was not necessary to take any action with respect to Outworkers.

PART 8—LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

It was found necessary to institute legal proceedings in accordance with the provisions of the Public Health Act, 1936, on fourteen occasions, and in respect of contraventions of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, on one occasion. Details of these proceedings are set out below:—

Act under which proceedings were taken	Nature of Offence	Remarks
Public Health Act, 1936, Section 94	Non-abatement of nuisance. Premises in such a state as to be a nuisance.	Court Order obtained.
Ditto	Ditto	Case withdrawn on payment of 3s. 6d. costs.
Ditto	Ditto	Ditto
Ditto	Ditto	Ditto
Ditto	Ditto	Court Order obtained. 8s. 6d. costs.
Ditto	Ditto	Costs 40s. obtained.
Ditto	Ditto	Court Order obtained, and Advocate's fee of £2 2s. awarded.
Ditto	Ditto	Work done before hearing. Summons withdrawn.
Ditto	Ditto	Summons withdrawn. Undertaking given by owner to carry out the work.
Ditto	Ditto	Ditto
Ditto	Ditto	Court Order obtained. Advocate's fee £2 2s. and 8s. 6d. costs awarded.

Act under which proceedings were taken	Nature of Offence	Remarks
Public Health Act, 1936, Section 94	Non-abatement of nuisance. Premises in such a state as to be a nuisance.	Summons withdrawn. Work done before hearing.
Ditto	Ditto	Ditto
Ditto	Ditto	Court Order obtained. Advocate's fee £2 2s. and costs 8s. 6d. awarded.
Food and Drugs Act, 1938	Safety pin in loaf of bread.	Fine of £20 and Order to pay 19s. 4d. witnesses fees.

REPORT

OF THE

PRINCIPAL SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICER

For the Year ended 31st December, 1954

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit my report on the School Health Service for the year ended 31st December, 1954.

There have been a number of medical staff changes during the year. In February Dr. J. G. Hagan, Assistant Medical Officer of Health, resigned his appointment and in May Dr. A. Laurie, Deputy Medical Officer of Health, resigned on taking up an appointment with Derbyshire County Council. Dr. H. C. Milligan, who was appointed in succession to Dr. Laurie, took up duty in July. In July the staff was further depleted by the resignation of Dr. A. W. Kilpatrick, Assistant Medical Officer, but the position was restored by the appointments of Dr. F. N. Garratt and Dr. M. B. Dillon as Assistant Medical Officers.

Despite these staff changes, the volume of work has not seriously declined. During the year nearly 8,000 school children were examined at periodic medical inspections, and together with other inspections carried out, the total number of inspections was nearly 13,000.

The Dental staff position has also deteriorated during the year, Mr. Macintosh relinquishing part-time service in March and Mrs. Waddington, who took up full-time duty the same month, resigning in October.

During the year the two classes established for the special educational treatment of educationally subnormal children continued to do useful work and were supplemented by the opening of a third class at Busill Jones Junior School. These classes have gone some way to meeting a long felt need but there is still a substantial number of children requiring more than mere remedial treatment and who will require to be catered for with special education throughout their school life. It is for this type of child that a special day school is required particularly as far as educationally subnormal girls are concerned.

The authority is fortunate in having the use of the Beacon Residential School for Educationally Subnormal Boys, and the facilities have been made increasingly available to Walsall boys during the year. Of the 23 boys admitted to Beacon School 16 were admitted from Walsall. It is disappointing not to report progress in the development of Child Guidance Services in Walsall. The proposal of the Regional Hospital Board to provide a Child Psychiatrist on a part-time basis has not come to fruition though we have been fortunate in obtaining some facilities through the good offices of West Bromwich Education Department.

1.—SCHOOL HEALTH WORK

The following notes on various aspects of the School Health Service have been provided at my request by Dr. H. C. Milligan.

Medical Inspections. In 1954 the total number of children examined at periodic medical inspections by medical officers of the Health Department was 7,946. Of these just over 1,000 were found to have some disability requiring observation or treatment. Most of those requiring observation were re-inspected at intervals throughout the year, which brought the total number of inspections up to nearly 13,000. It is again pleasing to report that the attendance of parents at school medical inspections continues to be good although the attendance of parents at examinations in senior schools leaves considerable room for improvement. There is no doubt that the findings of the final school medical inspection, together with the advice and assistance of the Youth Employment Officer, can enable boys and girls leaving school to find employment suitable to their ability and aptitude and may prevent leavers with certain disabilities entering unsuitable occupations.

It is usual at school medical inspections to grade children according to their general condition, which includes physique and nutrition, the grades used being A (excellent), B (good) and C (poor). In 1954 the percentage of children in Grade A was 47.60, Grade B, 51.03 and Grade C, 1.37. These are, of course, purely subjective and reflect the individual opinion of the examining medical officer.

In addition to medical inspections by medical officers, many examinations are made by school nurses alone, particularly those made to promote cleanliness amongst the children, including the control of infestation with head lice. It is disappointing to report that the incidence of infestation has not declined during the year but in fact has risen. To some extent this may be explained by the less frequent inspections carried out due to the shortage of school nursing staff, examinations having declined from 100,422 in 1953 to 85,100 in 1954, but it is a sad commentary on present day standards to report that a total of 1,305 individual children were found to be infested during the year, compared with 1,055 in 1953, representing a rate of 6.3% as opposed to 5.6% in 1953 and 5.2% in 1952. There is no doubt that

this rate, whilst high, is certainly no worse than in other industrial areas, but leaves considerable room for improvement and requires constant vigilance by the School Nursing Staff.

As in the case of medical inspections we would plead for the co-operation of parents towards the reduction of this figure. Infestation is eminently preventable and reliable and effective preparations are freely available for its treatment. The combined efforts of parents and nurses can reduce this problem to negligible proportions.

During the year 5 children had to be dealt with under the provisions of Section 54 (cleanliness) of the Education Act, 1944, compared with 2 in 1953.

School Clinics. There are in Walsall today three School Clinics, one at Bradford Street, one at Field Road, Bloxwich, and one at Littleton Street. The Walsall Clinic is open for medical advice by medical officers three times a week, and for advice and treatment by nurses every working day. The Bloxwich Clinic has two medical sessions and three nursing sessions a week. Both clinics are well attended, and, while their main purpose is the investigation of disease and the assessment of disability, they are equipped for the treatment of cases of minor illness and injury. The Clinic at Littleton Street is used for Speech Therapy and special examinations only.

During 1954, 2,854 children attended the minor ailments clinics to consult the medical officers, many being referred for fuller investigation to the clinics from school inspections, and others presented by their parents for advice. Altogether, some 4,500 examinations were carried out.

The school nurses hold their own sessions at the clinics for the dressing of minor injuries and the application of treatment recommended by the medical officers. 3,715 children attended for these purposes and a total of 9,889 attendances was made.

Handicapped Children. There are many children in the community who suffer from a disease or disability to a degree affecting their ability to attend school or their ability to benefit from ordinary educational methods. Such children are known as Handicapped Children, and the handicap may be one of the body or of the mind. It is a major duty of the School Health Service to ascertain and assess such children, and to make recommendations concerning the child's particular requirements.

As a result of such recommendations, 9 children are receiving education in their own homes, 12 were admitted to Residential Schools for Physically Handicapped Children, and 16 to Residential Schools for Mentally Handicapped Children.

The presence of a Day School for Delicate Children in Walsall has allowed many children with minor physical disabilities to be educated in an environment suited to their medical needs.

Children who have made poor progress at school are referred for an opinion to the Principal School Medical Officer. The children are given a full medical examination, and an assessment is made of their intelligence by the school medical officers. If there is impaired intelligence a recommendation may be made for schooling in a Special Day School equipped for this purpose. There were, at the end of 1954, 100 children awaiting admission to such a school.

The opening of a third special remedial class in an ordinary school allowed recommendations to be made in a number of high grade cases for such schooling.

Beacon School, Lichfield, has been most valuable in receiving educationally subnormal children when special education was advisable in a residential school, and 16 children were admitted to this school in 1954.

2.—SCHOOL ACCOMMODATION

Queen Mary's High and Grammar Schools	900	pupils
Technical College	150	„
Elmore Green High School	440	„
Joseph Leckie Comprehensive Secondary School	960	„
Edward Shelley High School	360	„
(a) No. of Secondary Schools		12
County Schools	10	
Voluntary Schools	2	
with accommodation for 4,330 pupils.		
(b) No. of Primary Schools		49
County Schools	34	
Voluntary Schools	15	
with accommodation for 14,944 pupils.		
(c) Nursery Schools		3
with accommodation for 120 pupils.		
(d) Reedswood Park Day Special School	for 60 pupils.	
(e) Beacon Residential School for Educationally Subnormal Pupils	77	pupils

The number of pupils on the register at 31st December, 1954 was 20,813, as follows: Primary and Secondary Modern Schools 17,969, Queen Mary's Schools 895, Technical College 119, Elmore Green High School 410, Edward Shelley High School 332, Joseph Leckie Comprehensive Secondary School 906, Nursery Schools 118, Reedswood Park 64.

Of the 17,969 pupils in Primary and Secondary Schools, the average attendance was 16,121.

3.—PUPILS EXAMINED

7,946 pupils were examined in the course of routine inspections; of that number the general condition was described as good in 47·6%, fair in 51·03%, and as poor in 1·37%.

The following table shows the average heights and weights of all pupils medically inspected during 1954:—

			Number		Height, ins.		Weight, lbs.	
			Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls
New Entrants	(5+)		948	955	...	43·5 43·4	...	43·7 42·4
Juniors	...	(8+)	836	789	...	51·2 50·9	...	62·1 60·4
Juniors	...	(10+)	884	854	...	54·9 54·7	...	73·6 73·2
Seniors	...	(12+)	697	662	...	57·9 57·9	...	87·6 90·0
Leavers	...	(14+)	704	617	...	62·6 61·5	...	108·7 109·2

4.—SCHOOL CLINICS AND FOLLOW-UP

The treatment of Minor Ailments is carried out at the Bradford Street and Field Road Clinics. The Littleton Street Clinic is reserved for Special examinations and Speech Therapy.

975 children were referred to the Ophthalmic Surgeon for errors of refraction and squint. Spectacles were prescribed in 819 cases and obtained in 816 cases. 15 children suffering from squint were referred for orthoptic treatment. 265 children received operative treatment for adenoids and for chronic tonsillitis, 3 for other nose and throat conditions, 5 for ear conditions and 16 received other forms of treatment.

The vigilance of the School Nurses in Home Visiting has been well maintained, 2,260 visits being paid during the year for the following purposes—(a) obtaining the consent of parents for eye treatment, (b) interviewing parents with regard to their children failing to keep appointments with the Orthopædic Specialist, or failing to attend for treatment, (c) post-tonsillectomy visits to arrange for breathing exercises, (d) following-up bad defects found at school medical inspections to ensure that treatment was obtained, (e) following-up cases of long absence from school where it was thought that no treatment was being obtained, (f) arrangement of special medical examinations, particularly for Mental Testing, (g) arrangement of Sunlight and Convalescent Holiday treatment, (h) Survey work for a selected group of children.

5.—UNCLEANLINESS

There has been a slight increase in the number of cases of Scabies treated—39 as against 21 in 1953.

The improvement shown during recent years in the general standard of head cleanliness has been barely maintained, a slight increase is shown in the incidence of uncleanness in spite of much effort on the part of the School Nursing Staff.

The average uncleanliness rate is 6.3% as against 5.6% in 1953 the incidence of uncleanliness varying in the different schools from 0.06% to 17.88%.

It is deplorable to have to record that some of the Secondary Modern Schools for Girls again show the lowest standard although regularly inspected throughout the year. The Primary Schools have, for the most part, maintained the standard and in some cases show a slight improvement.

It is encouraging to note an improvement in the general standard of bodily cleanliness, foot inspections having found comparatively few offenders.

Vigilance in home visiting has been well maintained and D.D.T. head lotions continue to be given free of charge.

5 children were compulsorily cleansed and assistance in cleansing has been given, either in the home or at the School Clinic, wherever it was found to be necessary.

6.—PHYSICAL EDUCATION

I am indebted to Mr. A. J. Spears, Physical Training Organiser, for the following interesting report on Physical Education in the Schools:—

“Considerable progress was made during the year with the work in Primary Schools in augmenting the supply of varying types of Heaving, Balance and Agility apparatus. This has a very strong appeal to the children and is invaluable in its effect on posture through the passive stretching of the spine in heaving, in ensuring poise and balance, and in developing flexibility in the body as a whole. The early faltering attempts at activities, when children are first introduced to this apparatus, soon give place to the bold and confident movements and exercises seen after a few weeks’ practice.

In some respects this training cannot be effectively carried on through the Secondary Schools as the provision of the so-called fixed heaving and balance equipment has not been widely installed. It is confidently hoped that in the near future developments may be such that some secondary departments may get additional equipment. The standard of work on the existing portable vaulting and agility apparatus is generally of a high order.

The organised games training has been maintained at a sound level though severely handicapped by cancellations due to the bad weather and unfit grounds. It has been one of the worst years, from this point of view, on record and the Schools Associations running the leagues for inter-schools games have found it impossible to complete their fixture lists satisfactorily.

Athletics training is being conscientiously carried out and the improving standards were in evidence on the days of the Annual Athletic Sports. The seniors held their meeting on June 2nd and the juniors on June 3rd on the excellent Transport ground. We are much indebted to the Social Committee of the Transport Department for the ground and their help in planning the sports. We again sent a team forward to the County Championships.

The Schools' Boxing Association is doing excellent work and more departments are producing boxers of merit. The Richard C. Thomas team won the Thomas Shield for Staffordshire Schools for the second year running, which is an excellent achievement. Nine Walsall boys have qualified to go forward to the County Championships.

The experiment was tried this year of running two separate swimming galas, one for seniors on 8th July and one for juniors on 21st July. This arrangement was a great success and both evenings were well patronised. The standard of swimming showed some improvement and this is borne out by the fact that 7 new records were established, 4 for girls' events and 3 for boys' events.

This is very satisfactory from the point of view of the instruction for girls as this is the first year that our women teachers have been made responsible for the teaching of their girls.

The A.S.A. awards were taken again this year and show an increase on last year's results, so we hope this new type of award will gain a firm hold on our schools.

There has been a slight but welcome increase in the Life Saving Awards and this is mainly due to the successes attained by the girls' departments. A complete summary of the awards and certificates is given below with the comparative figures for 1953.

1953					1954			
		Boys		Girls		Boys		Girls
1st Class	...	54	...	44	...	77	...	55
2nd Class	...	154	...	101	...	124	...	108
3rd Class	...	186	...	98	...	168	...	114
Proficiency	...	135	...	122	...	152	...	144
Learners	...	201	...	193	...	188	...	148

Royal Life Saving Society Awards (1953 in brackets)

				Boys		Girls
Award of Merit	...	...	...	1 (0)	—	(0)
Instructor	...	...	...	— (0)	1	(0)
Scholar Instructor		...	...	— (0)	2	(2)
Bronze Cross	...	...	...	1 (0)	—	(0)

			Boys	Girls	Total
Bar to Bronze Medallion	...	4	(0)	6	(7)
Bronze Medallion	...	30	(21)	45	(25)
Intermediate Certificate	...	21	(28)	39	(26)
Elementary Certificate	...	26	(27)	41	(66)
Total for Boys and Girls 1953	...			202	
Total for Boys and Girls 1954	...			217	

A.S.A. Scholars' Awards (1953 in brackets)

			Boys	Girls
Medallist Award	...	...	13 (7)	12 (6)
Advanced Award	...	...	— (0)	3 (1)
Total for Boys and Girls 1953	...			14
Total for Boys and Girls 1954	...			28

7.—PROVISION OF MEALS AND MILK FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN

I am indebted to Mrs. D. M. Curtis, School Meals Organiser, for the following report on the School Meals Service.

“The sharp decline in the number of school meals, which occurred last year after the statutory increase in the price from 7d. to 9d. has been checked and the figures for the year 1954 show an increase of 20,000 meals, all of them paid. With the development of the new housing estates, the demand has moved to the northern end of the Borough, but cooking capacity in the area is still adequate. The total number of meals served during the year was 988,566 (819,246 paid and 169,320 free).

The “Milk in Schools” Scheme, whereby all children on school registers (even when absent through illness) are supplied with one-third pint daily, free of charge, remains in operation. The latest figures, as returned to the Ministry of Education, and relating to a day in October, are—16,833 one-third pints, 88·3% of the number of children in school on that day.”

8.—INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Diphtheria. No case of diphtheria occurred amongst school children during the year. 856 children under the age of 5 years and 1,027 between the ages of 5 and 15, a total of 1,883, were immunised against diphtheria. 795 children received a re-inforcing dose.

Scarlet Fever. There were 118 cases of scarlet fever amongst school children, against 91 in 1953. There were no deaths. 36 school children were notified as suffering from measles, but there were no deaths. There were 273 cases of whooping cough, 34 of pneumonia, 7 of dysentery, 1 of erysipelas, 1 of food poisoning, 1 of meningococcal infection, 3 of poliomyelitis (paralytic) and 1 of poliomyelitis (non-paralytic).

9.—HANDICAPPED CHILDREN

Deaf. There were 16 children in residential schools for the deaf or partially deaf at the end of the year. Two children were in attendance at special days schools. At the end of the year one boy was discharged from a day special school by reason of age, and one boy attending a day special school removed from the area of this authority.

Blind. 2 totally blind and 3 partially sighted children were in residence in special schools at the end of the autumn term. One blind and 1 partially sighted boy were discharged during the year by reason of age.

One totally blind and educationally subnormal boy was discharged from a residential special school by reason of age.

Educationally Subnormal. 16 boys were admitted to Beacon Residential School, Lichfield, during the year.

4 boys were discharged from the Beacon School during the year by reason of age, 2 boys were discharged as unsuitable and one boy was transferred to a normal school. Of the 40 boys in residence at the end of the year, 1 other attained school leaving age.

26 children examined during the year were found to be educationally subnormal and in need of educational training in special schools.

There were 100 ascertained educationally subnormal children awaiting admission to a special school at the end of the year.

55 children were attending special classes in the Harden, Busill Jones and Edward Shelley Primary Schools.

The following children were notified to the local health authority:—

Under Section 57(3)	Idiots or Imbeciles	...	...	12
Under Section 57(5)	Educationally Subnormal	...	...	4
				—
Total				16
				—

Other Handicapped Pupils. During the year 4 boys were admitted to special residential schools for cases of asthma and bronchitis. 1 girl was placed in a boarding special home for maladjusted and 1 boy was placed in a residential school for maladjusted. 1 blind and 1 partially sighted boy were placed in residential schools. 1 deaf boy, 2 partially deaf boys and 1 partially deaf girl were placed in residential schools.

1 girl was discharged during the year and one at the end of the year from a hostel for maladjusted as fit to return to a normal school. 2 boys and 2 girls were discharged from residential schools for delicate children.

These handicapped children were in the following special schools at the end of the year:—

	Boys	Girls	Total
Royal School for the Deaf, Birmingham	2	3	5
The Mount School for the Deaf, Stoke-on-Trent	2	6	8
Moseley Road Day School for the Deaf	2	—	2
Royal Institute for the Blind, Birmingham	2	2	4
Exhall Grange, Warwickshire (Partially sighted)	1	—	1
Colthurst House, Warford (Epileptics)	—	1	1
Carlson House, Harborne (Day School for Spastics)	1	1	2
Puckle Hill House, Shorne, Kent (Vocational Training School for Spastics) ...	—	1	1
River House, Henley-in-Arden (Maladjusted)	1	—	1
Shenstone Lodge, Shenstone (Maladjusted)	1	—	1
Bodenham Manor, Hereford (Maladjusted)	—	1	1
Tudor Grange, Solihull (Physically Handicapped)	—	1	1
Royal School for the Deaf, Derby ...	2	—	2
Rangemore Hall, Needwood	—	1	1
St. Catherine's Home, Ventnor ...	4	—	4
Magull, Liverpool (Epileptic)	2	—	2
Laleham House, Margate	—	1	1
Educationally Subnormal—			
Beacon School, Lichfield	40	—	40
St. Francis School, Monyhull ...	—	5	5
Besford Court, Worcester	1	—	1

Home Tuition. Education was provided in their own homes for the whole or some part of the year for 16 children whose physical condition was such that they were unable to attend any Primary or Secondary School. 9 children were receiving home teaching at the end of the year. Teaching was also provided at the Manor Hospital and the General Hospital for children who were confined to Hospital for a long stay.

Crippled Children. 768 children received treatment at the Orthopædic Clinic, Bradford Street, and 75 children received in-patient treatment at the Royal Orthopædic Hospitals, The Woodlands and The Forelands.

Hospital Treatment. 606 school children were admitted to local hospitals for in-patient treatment.

Speech Therapy. During the year 162 children received treatment at either the Littleton Street Clinic or the Field Road Clinic.

Classification of the children treated is as follows:—

Stammerers 48, Dyslalics 104, Cleft Palate 5, Others 5.

These children made 2,012 attendances and 226 attendances of parents were made to the clinics during the period.

92 children were referred for treatment and 67 patients were discharged during the year, 75 children were awaiting treatment at the end of the year and, except in the most urgent cases, it is necessary for children to wait for several months before admission for treatment. It has, however, been found possible to interview suitable cases and to advise parents, so that the waiting period may be utilised to minimise the disability.

Attendance has, on the whole, shown a considerable improvement but it is unfortunately true that there is still a small number of cases where children having severe speech defects have ceased to attend after commencing treatment.

Many parents have taken a keen interest in the treatment, and visit the clinic regularly for discussion and advice. Excellent co-operation has also been given by the head teachers and both schools and homes have been visited by the Speech Therapist whenever possible.

10.—BEACON RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL

The following report on the work of the school during the year has been supplied by Mr. C. A. Norman, the Headmaster of the Beacon Residential School for Educationally Subnormal Children.

“The year has been one of development and planning and on the classroom side many developments have taken place. The work of the reception class has been completely recast, and throughout the classes a constant stream of new ideas has ensured that the educational

work is lively and stimulating. Tribute must be paid to the unremitting efforts of the teaching staff which have produced much teaching apparatus. Class libraries have been further developed and the standard of literacy continues to be high, having regard to the ability of the pupils. Good work has been done in the crafts, and the influence of new members of the staff is evident in a freer approach to art work.

Out of school activities have included craft work of various kinds, and much physical activity, ranging from the usual games and swimming to organised evening gymnastic groups. The performance of the older boys at these activities suggests that they are at the peak of physical condition, which is due in no small measure to the excellent standard of feeding which is maintained. Domestic staffing has been a problem throughout the year, and the task of maintaining standards in the face of constant staff shortages and inadequacies has been both worrying and frustrating.

During the year a great deal of work has been done in planning alterations to the buildings, and it is most satisfying to note as this report is being written that a contract has been placed for improved dormitory and other accommodation. These improvements should make possible far higher standards of care and training for the children and easier and more efficient administration.

The number of people—students, teachers and lecturers—who visited the school in 1954 is an indication of the continuing interest shown in the activities of the school by those engaged in the wider sphere of education.

News has been received of many former pupils who are in employment.

During the year 23 boys were admitted (including 16 Walsall boys) and 22 discharged (including 9 Walsall boys)."

Age Distribution:—

		Age in Years									Total
		7-8	8-9	9-10	10-11	11-12	12-13	13-14	14-15	15-16	
Walsall											
Boys		1	1	2	5	10	3	4	4	9	39
Other Boys		1	2	1	1	7	8	1	11	6	38
<hr/>											
Total	...	2	3	3	6	17	11	5	15	15	77

I.Q. Distribution:—

		Below 50	50-59	60-69	70-79	80-89	Total
Walsall Boys	...	—	7	10	16	6	39
Other Boys	...	—	9	14	12	3	38
Total	...	—	16	24	28	9	77

Average I.Q. ... 68.4

11.—DENTAL TREATMENT

The following report on the School Dental Service has been received from Mr. R. E. Morgan, L.D.S., Principal School Dental Officer.

“In surveying the work of the School Dental Service the results for the year were very satisfactory in view of the varying circumstances and compared favourably with past returns. The year commenced with the equivalent of three whole-time officers and it was hoped that a full programme of work within the scope of the three clinics would be possible. This was not fully realised due to illness and a resignation, but nevertheless, the output accomplished was greater than for a considerable period. Figures for conservative treatment were substantial, while those for extractions continued on a high level. At the same time the number of children requiring attention was very pronounced, a situation which appears likely to persist for an appreciable time.

Two staff changes occurred during the year, Mr. Macintosh relinquishing part-time service in March, while Mrs. Waddington, who took up full-time duty the same month, resigned in October.

The number of patients inspected increased to 7,313, of whom 6,220 required treatment, a rate of 85%. This high incidence of dental disease was manifest not only in the many affected, but also in its extent in individual cases. The condition will remain unless there is a diminution in the present excessive consumption of starches and sugars, particularly in their refined state, combined with more enlightened views on oral hygiene. The use of the tooth-brush in many cases is either nil or more spasmodic than habitual. Emergency patients, although less, represented one in every four patients in need of attention, a state of both local and national concern. The acceptance rate of 78% varied little from last year, this percentage applying to those pupils called up for treatment, but not including the total school population.

There was an increase in the volume of conservative work, fillings in permanent teeth numbering 2,775, with 2,032 teeth saved, while extractions comprised 1,528 permanent and 7,215 temporary teeth. The ratio of permanent teeth saved to those extracted remained low, any material improvement in this respect being determined by more frequent inspections and treatment. General anæsthetics were administered on 3,289 occasions, while “other operations” totalled 1,459. It will be noted that few fillings were inserted in temporary teeth, a measure necessary in view of the present limited resources. Time employed on these teeth is at the expense of the permanent dentition, greater benefit being derived by concentration on the latter. I would stress again the advantage of the services of a doctor at general anæsthetic sessions, thereby releasing a dental officer for

conservative treatment. This would enable a substantial number of teeth to be saved which otherwise would require ultimate extraction. By this means it is estimated that additional teeth saved would be in the region of 500 per annum.

With the large number of children in need of attention, comprehensive treatment was not possible and a policy of priority and selection was very necessary. Children entering school for the first time were inspected as soon as possible and any treatment given. Possible harmful effects arising from dental disorders were thus eliminated at a vital age. Pre-school children and expectant and nursing mothers also received early attention, an important sphere of the Maternity and Child Welfare scheme which is much appreciated. Good progress was made in this field, extractions totalling 292 permanent teeth, with dentures fitted numbering 29.

I am again indebted to the Birmingham Dental Hospital and the Manor Hospital for the co-operation shown in specialised cases. These include patients with dental irregularity and those requiring X-ray diagnosis.

With the acute degree of caries now prevalent, the need for adequate treatment becomes more urgent. At present the difficulty in securing additional personnel remains, creating an unfavourable situation to meet the mounting requirements of the school population.

I would thank the staff for their excellent efforts with a tribute to Mrs. Miller for her co-operation during the year."

12.—HEALTH EDUCATION

The lectures on hygiene and mothercraft, which have been given in previous years to senior girls, have been continued during 1954, the arrangements for the lectures being under the direction of Miss G. Johnson, the Superintendent Health Visitor. Most of the lectures have been given by members of the Health Visiting staff.

During the year nine courses of lectures were given to senior school girls, 75 lectures being given in all. In addition visits were arranged to Child Welfare Centres where practical instruction was given in the care of infants. Each course consisted of approximately eight lectures, covering personal hygiene, general hygiene and mothercraft, and followed the pattern which proved so successful in previous years. Examinations were held at the conclusion of the mothercraft lectures and 88 first class and 74 second class certificates were awarded to successful candidates. It is interesting to report that some of our former pupils of the schools have now children of their own and on several occasions they have expressed their gratitude to the midwives attending them for the tuition which they received from the mothercraft lectures given in schools by the health visitors.

Twelve lectures have been given to parent-teacher associations during the year by the Superintendent Health Visitor and by Health Visitors. Lectures included the services covered by the Health Department, accidents in the home and their prevention, the prevention of minor ailments, the maintenance of good health, the provision of suitable clothing for children and the early recognition of infectious diseases. In addition the opportunity was taken to give some instruction in first aid in the home. A special talk was given to a parent-teacher association on handicapped pupils and the provision which is made for them in the School Health Service. The Superintendent Health Visitor also acted as examiner in the tests given to Girl Guides. We value very much the opportunity afforded to us to give these talks to associations connected with school children.

13.—CONCLUSION

My sincere thanks are due to the Education Committee, the Director of Education and his staff, and to the Head Teachers of the schools for their very helpful co-operation during the year. There is a very satisfying liaison between the Health and Education Departments and the Schools, which undoubtedly brings the maximum benefit to the school children.

I should also like to thank the medical, nursing and administrative staff for their competent and energetic work throughout the year, and I feel sure that all persons concerned with the well-being of our children see the obvious improvement in their physical and mental condition.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

THOMAS ROSS,

April 1955.

Principal School Medical Officer

MEDICAL INSPECTION AND TREATMENT RETURNS

Year ended 31st December, 1954.

TABLE 1

Medical Inspection of Pupils Attending Maintained Primary and Secondary Schools (including Special Schools)

A. PERIODIC MEDICAL INSPECTIONS.

(1) Number of Inspections:

Entrants	1,903	
Second Age Group ...	1,738	
Third Age Group	1,321	
	<hr/>	Total 4,962

(2) Number of other Periodic Inspections 2,984

GRAND TOTAL 7,946

B. OTHER INSPECTIONS.

Number of Special Inspections	3,216
Number of Re-Inspections	1,824
	<hr/>
TOTAL	5,040 <hr/>

C. PUPILS FOUND TO REQUIRE TREATMENT.

Number of Individual Pupils found at Periodic Medical Inspection to require treatment (excluding Dental Diseases and Infestation with Vermin)

Group (1)	For defective vision (excluding squint) (2)	For any of the other conditions recorded in Table 2A (3)	Total individual pupils (4)
Entrants	11	178	186
Second Age Group ...	110	202	292
Third Age Group ...	101	93	190
Total (prescribed groups)	222	473	668
Other Periodic Inspections	166	284	426
Grand Total ...	388	757	1,094

TABLE 2

A. RETURN OF DEFECTS FOUND BY MEDICAL INSPECTION IN THE
YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1954.

Defect or Disease	PERIODIC INSPECTIONS		SPECIAL INSPECTIONS	
	No of defects		No. of defects	
	Requiring treatment	Requiring to be kept under observation but not requiring treatment	Requiring treatment	Requiring to be kept under observation but not requiring treatment
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Skin	52	201	351	21
Eyes—				
a. Vision ...	388	296	115	32
b. Squint ...	61	102	16	13
c. Other ...	19	46	67	5
Ears—				
a. Hearing ...	9	52	13	12
b. Otitis Media	27	116	41	10
c. Other ...	9	25	40	4
Nose or Throat ...	252	945	287	86
Speech	11	34	7	13
Cervical Glands ...	4	371	19	30
Heart and Circulation	36	141	57	27
Lungs	16	222	151	30
Developmental—				
a. Hernia ...	11	14	3	1
b. Other ...	44	218	45	4
Orthopædic—				
a. Posture ...	88	122	10	13
b. Flat foot ...	75	119	20	6
c. Other ...	71	204	134	20
Nervous System—				
a. Epilepsy ...	—	19	4	—
b. Other ...	16	106	56	4
Psychological—				
a. Development	4	18	16	1
b. Stability ...	2	17	12	6
Other	30	89	608	7

B. CLASSIFICATION OF THE GENERAL CONDITION OF PUPILS
INSPECTED DURING THE YEAR IN THE AGE GROUPS.

Age Groups	Number of pupils Inspected	A. (Good)		B. (Fair)		C. (Poor)	
		No.	% of col. 2	No.	% of col. 2	No.	% of col. 2
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
Entrants ...	1,903	775	40.73	1,111	58.38	17	0.89
Second Age Group ...	1,738	930	53.51	775	44.59	33	1.90
Third Age Group ...	1,321	756	57.23	551	41.71	14	1.06
Other Periodic Inspections	2,984	1,321	44.27	1,618	54.22	45	1.51
Total ...	7,946	3,782	47.60	4,055	51.03	109	1.37

TABLE 3

INFESTATION WITH VERMIN

(i) Total number of examinations in the schools by the school nurses or other authorized persons	85,100
(ii) Total number of individual pupils found to be infested	1,305
(iii) Number of individual pupils in respect of whom cleansing notices were issued	5
(iv) Number of individual pupils in respect of whom cleansing orders were issued	5

TABLE 4

TREATMENT TABLES

Group 1—DISEASES OF THE SKIN (excluding Uncleanliness for which see Table 3).

							Number of cases treated or under treatment during the year by the Authority
Ringworm—							
(i) Scalp	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
(ii) Body	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Scabies	...	...	...	...	...	...	39
Impetigo	...	...	...	...	...	...	392
Other skin diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	236
Total ...							671

Group 2—EYE DISEASES, DEFECTIVE VISION AND SQUINT.

				No. of cases dealt with	
				by the Authority	otherwise
External and other, excluding errors of refraction and squint ...				66	—
Errors of Refraction (including squint)				975	323
Total ...				1,041	323
No. of Pupils for whom spectacles were					
(a) Prescribed	...	...	...	819	—
(b) Obtained	...	...	...	816	—

Group 3—DISEASES AND DEFECTS OF EAR, NOSE AND THROAT.

	Total No. treated other than by the Authority
Received operative treatment—	
(a) for diseases of the ear	5
(b) for adenoids and chronic tonsillitis	265
(c) for other nose and throat conditions	3
Received other forms of treatment	16
Total	<hr/> 289 <hr/>

Group 4—ORTHOPÆDIC AND POSTURAL DEFECTS.

(a) No. treated as in-patients in hospitals	75
(b) No. treated otherwise, e.g. in clinics or out-patient departments other than by the Authority	768

Group 5—CHILD GUIDANCE TREATMENT.

No. of pupils treated at Child Guidance Clinics	5
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Group 6—SPEECH THERAPY.

Number of pupils treated by Speech Therapists by the Authority	162
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Group 7—OTHER TREATMENT GIVEN.

	No. of cases treated by the Authority
(a) Miscellaneous minor ailments	2,760
(b) other than (a)	
(i) Minor Eye Defects	157
(ii) Minor Ear Defects	163
(iii) Post-Tonsillectomy Breathing Exercises	235
Total ...	<hr/> 3,315 <hr/>

TABLE 5

DENTAL INSPECTION AND TREATMENT

(1)	Number of pupils inspected by the Authority's Dental Officers—					
	(a)	Periodic	age groups	...	...	5,680
	(b)	Specials	...	...	...	1,633
	(c)	TOTAL	(periodic and specials)	...	...	7,313
(2)	Number found to require treatment					6,220
(3)	Number offered treatment					5,511
(4)	Number actually treated					4,337
(5)	Attendances made by pupils for treatment					6,213
(6)	Half-days devoted to:—					
	Inspection	(Periodic)	...	...	...	32
	Treatment	...	...	...	...	887
	TOTAL	...	...	...	...	919
(7)	Fillings:—					
	Permanent Teeth	...	...	...	...	2,775
	Temporary Teeth	...	...	...	...	15
	TOTAL	...	...	...	...	2,790
(8)	No. of teeth filled:—					
	Permanent Teeth	...	...	...	...	2,032
	Temporary Teeth	...	...	...	...	14
	TOTAL	...	...	...	...	2,046
(9)	Extractions:—					
	Permanent Teeth	...	...	...	...	1,528
	Temporary Teeth	...	...	...	...	7,215
	TOTAL	...	...	...	...	8,743
(10)	Administration of general anæsthetics for extraction					3,289
(11)	Other operations:—					
	Permanent Teeth	...	...	...	...	1,238
	Temporary Teeth	...	...	...	...	221
	TOTAL	...	...	...	...	1,459